

The Honourable Ursula von der
Leyen
President of the European
Commission
Berlaymont Building
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 3rd November 2025

RE: Urgent call for a Ringfenced, Standalone Health Budget for Europe

Dear President von der Leyen,

On behalf of the **European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)** and the one million people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) across Europe, **we call on the European Commission to take decisive action: create a ringfenced, standalone health budget that protects health as a core European priority.**

Europe's health cannot continue to be treated as a subset of innovation or economic policy. When health is absorbed into broader portfolios, the needs of millions of citizens living with chronic and complex conditions — like MS — are too easily sidelined. This approach fragments efforts, weakens accountability, and risks leaving entire patient communities behind.

The MS Barometer 2020 paints a stark picture:

- People with MS face deep inequalities in access to diagnosis, treatment, and care across Member States.
- Only half of countries provide structured, multidisciplinary care pathways — despite overwhelming evidence that integrated care improves outcomes and reduces costs.
- Fewer than one in three countries have effective employment support policies, even though MS most often affects people in their working years.

These gaps are not inevitable — they are the result of fragmented, short-term health investment. They highlight why Europe urgently needs a dedicated health budget that delivers sustainable, equitable funding aligned with the real needs of its citizens.

A robust standalone EU health budget would:

- Guarantee that public health needs — not market forces — guide investment decisions;
- Enable long-term planning and innovation in prevention, care, and research;
- Strengthen resilience and solidarity across Member States;
- Rebuild citizens' trust that the European project puts people's health first.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a powerful lesson: without health, there is no resilience, no productivity, no future. Now is the moment to act — to embed health at the heart of the European Union's next Multiannual Financial Framework.

We urge the European Commission to work hand-in-hand with patient organisations and civil society to make this vision a reality. The EMSP stands ready to contribute our expertise, our data, and most importantly, the lived experience of people with MS across Europe.

Europe's strength depends on the health of its people. Let us make that commitment visible — with a health budget that finally matches the scale of Europe's ambition.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Temmes,
EMSP President