



BRUSSELS, September 29, 2021

To: Mayors involved in Just Transition and Recovery deliberations

Open Letter from the health sector:

### **Regional Just Transition plans need to place health protection at the center**

Dear Mayor,

This week the 4th Forum of Mayors on Just Transition will focus on the Social Policy Dialogue on the Transition to Net Zero.

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), bringing together over 90 member organisations from the health community, is the leading not-for-profit association working for better health through a healthier environment, in the European region and beyond.

HEAL has just launched a deep-dive [tool on the health aspects of the Territorial Just Transition Plans \(TJTP\)](#). With this tool, based on six just and healthy principles, we would like to bring to your attention **health dimension of an inclusive and Just Transition** which is needed to truly reflect the “Leave no one behind” commitment.

HEAL believes that the health perspective has to be at the center of all Just Transition deliberations and decisions, in order to shift the economy and our ways of life towards a climate-neutral and health promoting future, while leaving no one behind. Just Transition financing must provide targeted support to the most affected regions to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition and bring significant health benefits to the local population.

The health sector - Doctors, nurses, patients and health groups - have a unique role to play and can add a long neglected perspective to the debate about Just Transition and Europe’s climate and energy future.

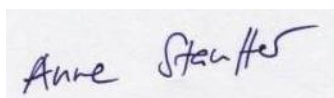
### **HEAL’S SIX PRINCIPLES FOR THE JUST AND HEALTHY TRANSITION ARE HIGHLY RELEVANT FOR THE LOCAL LEVEL:**

1. Cut GHG emissions quickly and ambitiously, to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
2. End public financing for all fossil fuels and avoid pollution lock-in
3. Help to reach the zero pollution ambition
4. Promote health equity
5. Involve health experts and the health community in the design and implementation of Just Transition
6. Carry out a health impact assessment for all Just Transition measures

We very much hope that you will use tool for health assessments of the Territorial Just Transition Plans and also extend it to recovery plans you might be preparing.

We encourage you to actively involve health community in creation of the Territorial Just Transition Plans for truly healthy transition we need.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Stauffer  
Deputy Director



Vlatka Matkovic  
Senior Policy Officer, Health and Energy

**The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)** is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 90 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96