

14th of December 2021

**To the parliament members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania**

On behalf of Eurocare, an alliance of over 50 European public health organisations across Europe advocating for the prevention and reduction of alcohol-related harm, we are writing to draw your attention to the possible relaxation of the existing alcohol policy, enshrined in the Lithuanian Alcohol Control Law.

Internationally, and especially in Europe, the Lithuanian Alcohol Control Law is cited as one of the best models of effective legislation recommended by the World Health Organisation. Indeed, Lithuania is among the top five countries which have reduced alcohol consumption in the past five years. In particular, an unprecedented drop in consumption has been achieved in a very short time (from 14 litres per capita in 2015 to 11.1 litres in 2019) and a significant decrease in alcohol related mortality and harm as well as increases in life expectancy (especially in men) has been achieved. In this context, we would like to stress that the Lithuanian policies targeting the youth (e.g., age limit of 20 and marketing restrictions) were especially important.

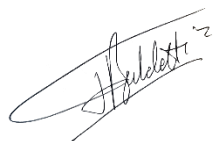
We have no doubt that changing the law by removing some of its key aspects related to alcohol taxes, reduced availability alcohol products and/or restricted marketing will undermine all the achievements that have already been accomplished and will have dreadful consequences on both consumption and public health.

The current law protects and saves many lives and should be considered as a long-lasting return on investment for public health in Lithuania and should remain an example to the rest of the world. With this in mind we trust that you will vote to maintain and strengthen the current alcohol control policy in Lithuania.

Best regards,



Peter Rice  
Eurocare President



Florence Berteletti  
Secretary General