



OPEN Letter to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania

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Support letter for alcohol policy measures in Lithuania

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare) which is representing 60 civil society organisations from 24 European countries dedicated to the prevention and reduction of alcohol related harm. We would like to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the proposed alcohol policy package that includes all the effective and cost-effective measures to tackle alcohol related harm.

The alcohol policy plans are based on recognised international agreements. Your proposed measures are addressing all the relevant areas of alcohol policies. Both WHO's Global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol and WHO European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020 recommends Member States “to reduce exposure to alcohol marketing, and in particular to protect children and youth from alcohol marketing of all kinds”. Reducing youth drinking and alcohol-related road accidents are both in line with UN's sustainable development goals.

Lithuania is among the countries with the highest per capita consumption of alcohol in Europe. We would like to emphasize that increasing alcohol price is one of the most cost-effective alcohol policy measures that decreases overall alcohol consumption and reduces harm.

Alcohol policy often contradicts with the interests of different industries and businesses it is important to state that for any country or government, the well-being and health of people should come before profit of private companies. Actions on alcohol will address chronic diseases, ill health and premature death as well as reduce inequalities and create future savings for health systems.

European Alcohol Policy Alliance strongly appeals to every Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania to stand with your citizens on the side of public health and support proposed alcohol control measures.

Yours sincerely,

Tiziana Codenotti

President

Mariann Skar

Secretary General

