



# Public Statement on Safe Hearts Plan

16 December 2025

# COCIR Welcomes Safe Hearts Plan, Calls for Rapid Patient Access

COCIR warmly welcomes the publication of the European Union Cardiovascular Health (CVH) Plan ("Safe Hearts Plan"), an important step forward in tackling the growing burden of cardiovascular diseases across Europe. As cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) remain the leading cause of death in the EU, representing an immense burden on patients, health systems, and the economy, the Plan is a critical political commitment to transform cardiovascular health outcomes in Europe.

As a key partner in this endeavour, the medical technology sector welcomes the Plan's focus on the entire patient pathway – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care. Modern medical technologies, including AI-driven diagnostics, advanced interventional devices, and remote monitoring solutions, will play a pivotal role in supporting the effective implementation of the CVH Plan.

The Plan's objectives can already be supported through existing, proven technologies, such as:

- **Cardiac Imaging:** Advanced CT and MRI scans allow physicians to detect coronary artery disease at an early stage, enabling timely interventions that prevent heart attacks.
- **Stroke Imaging:** Rapid deployment of CT perfusion imaging and MRI helps clinicians distinguish between ischemic and haemorrhagic strokes, ensuring patients receive the right treatment within the critical "golden hour."
- **AI-powered Echocardiography:** Automated image analysis supports cardiologists in identifying subtle changes in heart function, improving accuracy and reducing diagnostic delays.
- **Remote Monitoring:** Wearable devices integrated with imaging data provide continuous insights into patient recovery after cardiac surgery or stroke, reducing hospital readmissions and improving long-term outcomes.

*"The EU Cardiovascular Health Plan sets a clear vision, but it can only succeed if Member States turn commitment into action," said Klaus-Dieter Axt, Secretary General of COCIR. "National cardiovascular health plans are not optional – they are essential. Without implementation at the national level, the promise of better cardiovascular health for patients will remain unfulfilled."*

COCIR looks forward to collaborating closely with policymakers, healthcare professionals, patient groups, and Member States to ensure the Safe Hearts Plan is implemented effectively.

The Plan must be backed by adequate funding, and supported by a sustainable, patient-centered innovation ecosystem that delivers measurable impact on Europe's cardiovascular health.

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## About COCIR

COCIR is the European Trade Association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries. Founded in 1959, COCIR is a non-profit association headquartered in Brussels (Belgium) with a China Desk based in Beijing since 2007. We provide a wide range of services on regulatory, technical, market intelligence, sustainability, standardisation, international and legal affairs. COCIR is also a founding member of DITTA, the Global Diagnostic Imaging, Healthcare IT and Radiation Therapy Trade Association. <https://www.cocir.org/>