

## PRESS RELEASE

### European community pharmacists call for a greater role in vaccination

The PGEU General Assembly adopted today a new [Position Paper on the role of community pharmacists in vaccination](#).

Community pharmacists contribute to vaccination strategies in various ways, being ideally positioned at the heart of communities to provide information, advice and treatments to reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases. Pharmacists also engage in public awareness campaigns on vaccination, address vaccine hesitancy and contribute to increasing vaccination coverage.

*“Enabling pharmacists to vaccinate improves accessibility, convenience for patients and most of all overall vaccination rates. The extended opening-hours of pharmacies and a strategically distributed network of highly qualified professionals offer a unique opportunity to expand vaccination services. 15 countries in Europe have so far successfully implemented pharmacist-led vaccination programmes and we count on others to follow suit for the benefit of patients and public health,”* according to PGEU President Koen Straetmans.

The PGEU Position Paper suggests actions which can be taken to maximise the contribution that pharmacists make to tackling vaccine-preventable diseases and improving vaccination coverage, such as:

- Expanding pharmacy practice with the implementation of pharmacist-led or pharmacy-based vaccination programs, with appropriate support from national health systems.
- Including pharmacy-based vaccination programs in national health promotion plans.
- Integrating pharmacists in national vaccination strategies, including communication campaigns and actions to combat disinformation and misinformation about vaccines.