

## **IMPACT Diabetes Pledge Support Statement**

As the UK European Parliamentary Labour Party spokesperson on public health, I am proud to support IDF's Diabetes Pledge. I worked closely with partners for a number of years in UK local government on diabetes and look forward to doing so at the EU level.

Diabetes is one of the fastest growing health challenges of our time, with a recent estimate that by 2025, there will be 5 million people living with Diabetes in the UK, and 60 million people across the EU.

It is vital that we secure continued investment into research and public health services to combat this trend. We must also make sure, within the context of the Brexit negotiations, that important UK/EU research projects and investment are protected. I want to see the UK's continued involvement in EU research programmes and frameworks - we must not allow public health to be used as a political football in these negotiations.

MEP Rory Palmer