To whom it may concern,

My apologies if this communication is too late for the consultation deadline of Feb 14th but I would like to raise a single point which was overlooked in the European consensus publication by Kerim et al. 2005 (J. Cystic Fibrosis 4: 7-26).
There exists in most member states a Microbiology Reference Laboratory for Cystic Fibrosis. I have been directing the Irish laboratory for the last 8 years which is funded by charitable bodies and not by the state. I believe member state governments should fund such a facility in each state to ensure staff permanence and long term planing strategy. Only by this can we meet the three pillars of our community action:
(1) a minimum common facility in each member state;
(2) allow equal access by all EU citizens to such microbiological diagnosis, treatment and infection control;
(3) strengthen cooperation between member states which we do through the EU funded EuroCFcare (workpachage 3). I already cooperate with many of my EU colleagues working in this field but lack of formal government funding restricts what we can achieve for our patients with Cystic Fibrosis which is not the case in many other EU states.

The position in Ireland is that the government is denying funding of this service to Irish citizens with Cystic Fibrosis despite Ireland having the highest incidence of this rare disease. I believe that such a Commission recommendation in the forthcoming European action would encourage the Irish government to formally fund this laboratory and allow equal healthcare for all our citizens in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

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