Introduction

The IRC, a coalition of respiratory clinicians, patients and industry partners, aims to transform post-pandemic respiratory care and reduce mortality by a third globally by 2030 - in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The IRC is calling on governments and policy makers to establish funded national strategies, which include prevention, new models of care, ambitious measurable targets, and accountable leadership to improve lung health by focusing on:

**Better...**

1. Prevention of respiratory diseases
2. Access to the right treatment at the right time
3. Action on reducing inequalities
4. Prioritisation of research, data and insight to improve care

A national respiratory coalition is in formation in Belgium where the Belgian Respiratory Society (BeRS) and the Belgian Lung Foundation (BeLF) already established collaborations with different patient organizations, primary care organizations, and entities active in disease prevention, environmental protection and education. A structured national coalition will be available soon.

The IRC welcomes the work on this initiative and is also committed to collaborating with all relevant stakeholders in promoting lung health across Belgium by developing national strategies.

Societal economic cost by disease:

- **Asthma**: €985.6 million
- **COPD**: €5.9 billion
- **Interstitial Lung Disease**: €299.1 million
- **Lower Respiratory Tract Infections**: €2.9 billion
- **Mesothelioma**: €226.5 million
- **Lung Cancer**: €6.7 billion
- **Tuberculosis**: €69.4 million
- **Interstitial Lung Disease**: €299.1 million

**1.4 million**
people living with respiratory diseases

**21.8 thousand**
deaths from respiratory diseases

**413.1 thousand**
healthy life years lost to respiratory diseases

**€17.2 billion**
societal economic cost of respiratory diseases

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Data taken from IRC Lung Facts https://international-respiratory-coalition.org/lung-facts/diseases/