



Friday, September 6, 2024

Dear Mayor Sr. Jaume Collboni and 2nd Deputy Mayor Maria Gay,

Subject: Urgent Appeal for the Continuation of “La Terrasetta” Initiative

I am writing to you on behalf of Associació Rauxa, a committed member of Eurocare (the European Alcohol Policy Alliance), to urgently request your support in the defence of our rehabilitated patients and the vital work they perform through the *La Terrasetta* soup kitchen.

As you may know, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda for have drafted a “Law on the Prevention of Alcohol Consumption and its Effects on Minors” and are asking organisations to respond to a public consultation. The draft Spanish law reflects a significant step forward in protecting the health and well-being of young people in Spain and aligns with international commitments to safeguard citizens from alcohol-related harm.

It is in this context, however, that the decision of the City Hall to terminate the contract for *La Terrasetta* becomes particularly concerning. This action comes at a time when the federal government is consulting on a draft law designed to combat alcohol-related harm and protect vulnerable populations. While this draft law reflects significant progress in safeguarding young people from the dangers of alcohol, the City Hall’s decision to end the contract for *La Terrasetta* is a step in the opposite direction. It directly undermines the advancements being made at the national level and goes against the principles of public health and social rehabilitation outlined in the proposed legislation. This decision is difficult to understand, especially when the need for community-based actions, such as those provided by *La Terrasetta*, is more crucial than ever.

La Terrasetta has provided 150 meals daily since the year 2000, under a public contract with the City Hall of Barcelona (BCN), helping not only those in need of sustenance but also rehabilitated alcoholics who find purpose and dignity through their work in this project. The individuals employed at *La Terrasetta* have successfully completed more than two years of comprehensive addiction treatment with Associació Rauxa. Their engagement in this initiative has been an essential part of their recovery, providing them with a path toward reintegration into society and meaningful employment.

The importance of community actions such as these cannot be overstated, as they are recognised as a crucial element in the global fight against alcohol-related harm. Both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Framework for Action on Alcohol recommend the involvement of community-based interventions as part of a holistic strategy to combat alcohol abuse and promote rehabilitation. Programmes like *La Terrasetta* align with these international frameworks by providing rehabilitated individuals with opportunities for social reintegration while simultaneously serving the wider community. These efforts are key to preventing relapse, reducing stigma, and fostering healthier, more inclusive societies.

The European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), of which Associació Rauxa is a member, is the only alliance of national, pan-European, and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working exclusively on EU policy analysis and advocacy to reduce alcohol-related harm in Europe. Eurocare and its members play a pivotal role in advocating for effective alcohol policies across Europe and work closely with institutions such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, and the WHO. Crucially, Eurocare receives no funding from the alcohol industry, ensuring its policies and advocacy are unbiased and in the public's interest.

Eurocare is also aligned with international alcohol policy initiatives such as the WHO's [Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022-2030](#), which provides evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol harm globally, and the [European Framework of Action on Alcohol 2022-2025 \(factsheet\)](#), adopted by WHO Member States to highlight priority areas for reducing alcohol harm.

The termination of *La Terrasetta* would not only deprive vulnerable members of the public of a valuable service but also strip away a crucial support system for those who have worked hard to overcome their addictions. These individuals are living examples of resilience and recovery, and this initiative is a vital part of their ongoing success.

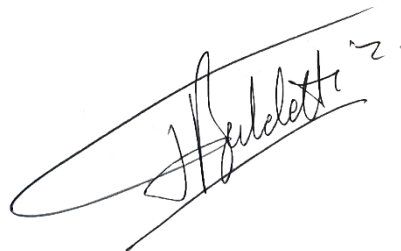
We urge you to reconsider this decision in light of the positive impact that *La Terrasetta* has had on both the individuals it employs and the community it serves. Continuing this project would ensure that Barcelona remains a leader in supporting community-based recovery initiatives, in line with the WHO and European policy recommendations. Ending the programme at this critical time would contradict national efforts to protect citizens from alcohol-related harm and undermine the values of social reintegration and rehabilitation.

Your intervention can safeguard this important project and the people whose lives depend on it. We hope that you will work with us to find a solution that allows *La Terrasetta* to continue its essential work.

Thank you for your attention and leadership in this matter.



Dr Peter Rice
President Eurocare



Florence Berteletti
Secretary General