



European Union of Medical Specialists Statement Supporting the World Health Organization (WHO)

Since its creation in 1948, the WHO has greatly contributed to global public health. It organised vaccination and prevention campaigns, reacted effectively in times of disease outbreaks, remained active during humanitarian crises, and contributed to the eradication of several diseases and to the general improvement of people's health. Its many and significant achievements are well known worldwide. It is most unfortunate and harmful to question the work of the WHO now, while we are facing a global pandemic.

International collaboration is needed now more than ever. As a European organisation of medical specialists we work together with other organisations to improve, at European level, specialist practice and patients care. We believe that this needs to also be done at a global level and it can only happen with the help of organisations such as the WHO. Proper funding is needed not only to tackle the current Covid-19 pandemic but also other major and evolving health issues, to develop vaccines and treatments and, in the long-term, to ensure that WHO acts as efficiently and quickly as possible in times of health crisis.

Doctors are on the frontline to fight the disease, care for patients and prevent the pandemic to worsen. We urge all countries to support finding solutions through international collaboration and reliance on scientific data rather than on political quarrels. There will be a time for analysing the international preparedness and response to the crisis, learning and implementing lessons, but we believe that right now, unity, worldwide collaboration and universal approach for which the WHO has been created and is prepared are clearly needed to defeat the Covid-19 pandemic.

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)