



European Medical Organisations

Brussels' Joint Declaration

The current economic crisis has disturbed the society and jeopardized citizens' confidence. While the economy depresses, the importance of the economy has rose above social demands, threatening basic citizen needs, causing unemployment, poverty and uncertainty, which in turn have become grounds for more social instability and economic uncertainty.

Every day, healthcare providers promote health and avoid disease. Consequently, healthcare providers are natural stakeholders in this field, committed in achieving better patient care and satisfaction. For this reason, healthcare providers play a major political and social role in defending their patients and financially-deprived citizens, breaking the vicious cycle of economic deprivation and promoting economic development whilst ensuring that the social needs are met.

In recent years, several trans-sector policies have changed the political view on health, making it less based on scientific information and more dependent of pure market approaches, shifting the focus from the patient to the economy.

Medical doctors acknowledge that healthcare should take cost-effectiveness in account, but decisions should be primarily scientific and evidence-based, prioritising patients' rights above the wish for healthcare with profit.

Furthermore, the emerging pandemic threats and other public health risks stress the vast impact of health contingencies in a more global world. For doctors it's thus crucial that health systems go forward on solid principles of solidarity, efficiency, responsiveness, safety, quality and ethics.

The European Doctors, represented by the European Medical Organisations (EMOs), share a common view on the need to promote a new healthcare agenda and call for the action of all European National Governments, European Institutions, Health Organisations, Health Professionals and the Civil Society to tackle these crucial challenges:

Inequalities and Poverty

Free access to healthcare is a basic right of all citizens. Nevertheless, there are large numbers of citizens worldwide that don't have or can't afford access to health assistance. Furthermore, economically-deprived citizens are more vulnerable to health threats and have a larger burden of disease. Global actions need to address this topic, investigating specifically the impact of the economic crisis. A person's economic condition cannot be a discriminative factor when trying to access a healthcare system.

Health Services

Despite its large economic impact (i.e. the health industries, the need for a qualified workforce, health products markets), health systems must remain closely linked to their basic function: citizen health promotion and disease prevention. Primary Care should be reinforced and money invested to promote efficiency and quality.

Mobility

Global mobility has created a new era for patients, doctors and Health Services. Efforts should be made to ensure the sustainability of each health system and mobility should be regulated so that it may be a means for better healthcare and not a threat to individual Health Systems or to patients' interest.

Financing Health

All Health Systems face a reinforced need for sustainability and affordability. The recently proven market inefficiency in health urges governments to re-focus attention on public responsibilities' and allocate resources to promote the best use of the limited available resources, focusing greater attention on how to maximise savings on waste instead of limiting the access or quality of Healthcare.

Medical Role

Doctors should be involved in the steering of health systems' reforms and responsible for the improvement in Healthcare. The working time and conditions of Health Professionals must have an adequate balance that can guarantee the quality and safety of health systems.

Medical Ethics

Ethical codes are safeguards for patients and ensure that the proper healthcare is delivered to citizens. The reinforcement of Medical Organisations self-regulatory duties and the need for an European core Ethical Code must be a concern on a EU level.

Medical Education

Medical manpower shortages need to be actively pursued and post-graduate training must respond to the different needs in specialised care. There's an urgent need for a European medical post-graduated core curriculum in specialised training and further promotion of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) with support and active involvement of the European Parliament and Commission.

The EMOs agree that the European Medical cooperation should be optimised to foster a better patient care. For this reason, the EMOs have decided to join efforts to intervene on healthcare under the current circumstances and have already:

- Created a Committee composed by all EMO Presidents to facilitate the establishment of an EU-confederation of doctors;**
- Organised meetings to share views about these common goals in order to promote better healthcare for all;**
- Established a common internet website with information of all EMOs for European Medical Doctors: the "e-Domus Medica".**

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