



Brussels, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

The signatories of this letter, AIM (the International Association of Health Care Mutuals and Health Care Funds), CPME (Standing Committee of European Doctors), ESIP (European Social Insurance Platform) and HOPE (the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation) would like to warmly thank you for presenting the 'Corona Response Investment Initiative' and stepping up coordination and cooperation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition of the dedicated efforts of our colleagues and members who are on the front line of managing the COVID-19 outbreak and in solidarity with those countries most affected by the virus, we offer our full support to the European Union's crisis management efforts.

We are pleased to see that more and more countries are focussing on slowing down the spread of the virus while ensuring that patients are receiving the appropriate diagnosis, medical devices, medicine and treatments they need. Equipping healthcare professionals with suitable protective clothing and antiseptics is essential and we welcome the fact that the Commission is getting an overview of stocks in Europe in this respect.

Once the emergency situation has passed, AIM, CPME, ESIP and HOPE invite the European Commission to set up a discussion with the health care community to share experience and to look at what measures have worked, what we can learn from it and what needs to be improved with regard to an effective and efficient response to the COVID-19 virus and any future public health crisis.

On this occasion, we would welcome a review of investments in research and development. For us, speeding up data sharing between Member States is essential and supporting the development of adapted Artificial Intelligence tools might be helpful in dealing with future health threats.

In addition, against a background of increasing shortages of vital medicines in Europe, which could be further aggravated by the COVID-19 outbreak, we look forward to continuing the serious discussion with all relevant stakeholders about Europe's dependency on single sourcing in the global production and distribution chain of pharmaceuticals and medical devices outside the EU.

Finally, as European level representatives of the health care community, AIM, CPME, ESIP and HOPE remain at the disposal of the European Commission to provide any information and support they can in tackling this and similar health threats in the future.

*Christian ZAHN*

*President AIM*

*Prof. Dr. Frank Ulrich MONTGOMERY*

*President CPME*

*Ilka WÖLFLE*

*President ESIP*

*Eva WEINREICH-JENSEN*

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