ESCMID urges support for the WHO. The EU should increase financial support.

Date: Monday 20th April 2020

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), supports the World Health Organization, WHO.

In the current COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO is the key player supporting policy in low- and middle-income countries, providing policy guidelines and expertise, and coordinating the actions all over the world. The WHO is the leading organization creating a forum for collaboration between countries on health issues, for instance developing the International Health Regulations, regulating cross-border issues such as international travel.

The WHO is an authority in developing guidelines, for instance on the protection of health care workers, and approving diagnostic assays to ensure results are recognized across borders.

The WHO has a key role in combating disease outbreaks by raising funds and coordinating action, exemplified by the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC.

We sincerely hope the decision by the United States President will be reversed. However, should this become a reality, we strongly urge the European Union to step in with economic support of the WHO to ensure the continuation of their important work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The work done by the WHO is a health security matter for the countries of the European Union.

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ESCMID President and ESCMID President-Elect and Secretary General