To the attention of Ms. Stella Kyriakides  
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B -1049 Brussels, Belgium

Cc: Prof. Guido Rasi, Executive Director European Medicines Agency  
Dr. Andrea Ammon, Director European Centre for Disease Prevention  
COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System, Directorate General For Health and Food Safety

Brussels, 7 May 2020

Subject: Strengthening the collaboration at EU level in managing the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences across Europe

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

Together with the undersigned Honourable Members of the European Parliament, the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA) would like to congratulate the measures undertaken by the European Commission, under your lead, to manage the COVID-19 outbreak and, furthermore, share our joint recommendations to ensure a strong recovery strategy for Europe.

Above all, the COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of joint European action. While the EU Member States now understand that cooperation and solidarity are the only way to overcome this crisis, some resource challenges persist. In particular, the emergency has demonstrated the significance of better equipping intensive care units to adequately respond to rapid pressures on healthcare systems and guarantee the best healthcare outcomes for all patients in need. Building on the recommendations outlined in the Joint Motion for a Resolution (P9_TA(2020)0054) on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, it is vital to develop a European health response mechanism that encompasses a EU coordinated intensive care strategy that will oversee the supply of drugs, diagnostic tests, and medical and technological equipment.

Herein, conducting simulations to evaluate and test emergency preparedness plans and developing training modules for frontline healthcare workers, such as anaesthesiologists, will play a key role in recovering from the current emergency and preparing European health systems to respond to future similar outbreaks. The COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System represents the best platform to develop and disseminate a coherent set of guidelines and evidence-based strategies on clinical management of COVID-19 during the emergency and recovery phases. Its long-term financial sustainability should be considered in the Recovery Plan.
Joint action at EU level, including a coordinated post-lockdown approach, is absolutely critical to tackle the pandemic and avoid a resurgence of the virus. As the outbreak is still progressing with significant growth rates in most EU Member States, the co-signatories of this letter believe that the appropriate action to take now is to expand the current Commission’s advisory panel on COVID-19 (E03719). This will ensure that the European institutions tap into the available knowledge and expertise of representatives of anaesthesiologists and other frontline healthcare professionals organisations. These organisations can indeed play a fundamental role in immediately assisting the COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System and overseeing the future European health response mechanism.

The European Society of Anaesthesiology, together with the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are committed to working with you to address this unprecedented health crisis, and support all the efforts undertaken by the European Commission and the EU Member States to ensure a truly common, coordinated and effective response at EU level.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and we look forward to collaborating with you on this important topic for the healthcare of EU citizens.

Prof. Kai Zacharowski MD PhD ML FRCA
President

Prof. Stefan De Hert MD PhD
Vice-President

With the support of the Members of the European Parliament:

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