



EUROPEAN UNION OF
MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

The advocate of medical specialists

Conc.: WHO Europe Survey on mental health of doctors and nurses

To the Presidents and UEMS delegates of the National Medical Associations

To the Presidents and Secretaries of UEMS Sections

Dear Colleagues,

It raised the interest and concern of WHO Europe that the actual mental health of many doctors and nurses in the EU is at risk. This is not a particular issue within the EU alone. But the lack of figures prevents WHO Europe from using its possible political impact to come up with suggestions for prevention and care within this field of interest.

The UEMS has been a partner of a WHO Europe working group together with other European Medical Organisations. In order to get a more detailed view on the actual status experienced by our colleagues, the working group members supported the idea brought forward by WHO Europe's delegates to develop a survey in order to obtain clear figures.

On the last online meeting of the working group, WHO Europe shared to us that the participation from our colleagues upon this moment is unexpectedly low. We knew that a certain *survey fatigue* might play a role. On the other side, recent research has shown that mental health remains a certain taboo among medical professionals, that the level of resistance to seek for mental support is significant.

A first invitation has already been sent on the 31st October. With this reminder we kindly but firmly insist to invite *your individual colleagues by a personalised message* to take part in this survey commonly supported by all these medical associations. It is a valuable way to bring an interest in mental health of medical professionals within the scope of the political stakeholders. A copy of the first announcement is joined with this reminder.

To take part, a colleague can use this link: <https://healthworkers-survey.ccomsuam.org/>

We express our thanks to those who already took part in the survey.

For any questions, don't hesitate to contact us by email.

Respectful regards,

Dr. Marc Hermans
Officer for EU & Int'l Affairs
marc.uems@telenet.be

Mrs. Isabelle Dumaine
EU Policy & Public Relations Officer
isabelle@uems.eu