



Dear Dr. Butler, dear Sirs,

Thank you for your comprehensive response to our proposal to foster activities aiming at avoidance of the spread of vaccine preventable communicable diseases triggered by the current migrant situation in Europe.

We fully agree with the goals of the European Vaccine Action Plan, particularly to include all individuals on European grounds into National Immunization Plans. We are aware of and seriously concerned by the shortcomings in several European countries to close significant immunization gaps. However, this fact is largely based on public opinion leading to vaccine hesitancy, which will probably not significantly change in due time to protect migrants from “European threats” like measles, and which is being addressed by several health organizations including the EAP. A correspondence on this issue was recently published and is available online

([http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00824-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00824-7/fulltext))

Nevertheless, we argue that it will not suffice to count on several European countries that can afford to actively include all individuals into their NIPs. The economic situation of the southern European first-entry countries, particularly Greece, does not even allow to cover the maintenance of their own health systems.

Therefore, we would like to ask the WHO for a strong statement defining the urgent need for economic support of the southern European first-entry countries enabling them to manage the current public health situation and to avoid potential health threats for the European region (including the spread of communicable diseases) by means of sufficient vaccination.

We are convinced that an official commitment of WHO would act as an effective call for possible funding sources.

As an option to your decision we suggest to consider writing a respective letter to the EU Parliament commonly signed by WHO and EAP.

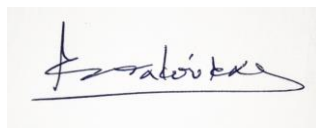
With kind regards,

**Tom Stiris**  
**President EAP/UEMS**

**Adamos Hadjipanayis**  
**Secretary General EAP/UEMS**



**Hans Jürgen Dornbusch**  
**Chairman of Vaccination Group EAP/UEMS**



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