

WELCOME MESSAGE ANGELA MERKEL



Angela Merkel

The individual desire for health and wellbeing is something we all share. With this in mind, one of the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to encourage people across the globe to live lives that are as healthy as possible at every stage of their existence. We committed ourselves to this goal last year within the framework of the United Nations. Now we have to implement this ambitious objective. That involves fighting epidemics and poverty related diseases and also extends to improving prevention and treatment of complaints of modern civilisation such as diabetes and cardiovascular disorders.

Germany plays a very active role in global health policy. To bring about further progress, we must strengthen healthcare systems worldwide and reform the global healthcare structure. We sharpened the focus on both these issues during Germany's G7 Presidency. We intend to build on this when our country assumes the G20 Presidency at the end of this year.

Whether we are talking about institutional factors or other global health issues such as a joint approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance, we can only be effective in overcoming the challenges they present if scientists, policymakers and society work together side by side. This is why dialogue forums such as the World Health Summit are particularly important. As the patron of the Summit, I would like to welcome all participants to Berlin. This message comes with my hope that you will enjoy a fruitful exchange of new insights. I would like to thank you most sincerely for your remarkable commitment to advancing healthcare throughout the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Merkel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Alle Menschen eint das individuelle Bedürfnis nach Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden. Folgerichtig beinhaltet die Agenda 2030 für nachhaltige Entwicklung das globale Ziel, ein möglichst gesundes Leben in jedem Alter zu fördern. Dazu haben wir uns im Rahmen der Vereinten Nationen im vergangenen Jahr verpflichtet. Nun gilt es, diesem ehrgeizigen Anspruch gerecht zu werden. Das fängt mit dem Kampf gegen Epidemien oder armutsassoziierte Krankheiten an und reicht bis hin zur besseren Vorbeugung und Behandlung von Zivilisationsleiden wie Diabetes und Herz-Kreislauf-Erkrankungen.

Deutschland bringt sich in die globale Gesundheitspolitik sehr engagiert ein. Weitere Fortschritte setzen sowohl eine weltweite Stärkung der jeweiligen Gesundheitssysteme als auch Reformen der globalen Gesundheitsarchitektur voraus. Beides haben wir bereits während der deutschen G7-Präsidentschaft stärker ins Blickfeld gerückt. Daran werden wir auch anknüpfen, wenn unser Land Ende dieses Jahres den G20-Vorsitz übernimmt.

Ob es um institutionelle oder andere globale Gesundheitsfragen wie etwa ein gemeinsames Vorgehen gegen Antibiotikaresistenzen geht: Den damit verbundenen Herausforderungen können wir nur im engen wissenschaftlichen, politischen und gesellschaftlichen Schulterschluss wirksam begegnen. Darin zeigt sich die besondere Bedeutung von Dialogforen wie dem World Health Summit. Alle, die daran teilnehmen, heiße ich als Schirmherrin in Berlin herzlich willkommen. Diesen Gruß verbinde ich mit dem Wunsch eines ertragreichen Austauschs neuer Erkenntnisse. Für Ihr verdienstvolles Engagement um die Weiterentwicklung der Gesundheitsversorgung weltweit danke ich Ihnen von Herzen.

Angela Merkel
Bundeskanzlerin der
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

WELCOME MESSAGE JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER



Jean-Claude Juncker

It is impossible to talk about health issues in the past year in Europe without reflecting on the refugee crisis, and the challenges and opportunities that it has presented for Europe. Over one million children, women and men arrived at our shores and borders last year.

The European Union had a common responsibility to ensure that these persons, many of them physically and mentally exhausted, were offered care and support, including through the provision of healthcare when required. Their journeys were punishing, and we cannot imagine the impossible choice they had to make between staying in their countries in extreme danger and the unenviable alternative of risking their lives at the hands of people smugglers. Europe's number one task was to offer these people a humane reception in Europe, which the Commission helped to achieve by the setting up of hotspots in Greece and Italy, and through financial and practical assistance to our Member States under our emergency asylum funding and through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism.

Our next priority is to ensure the effective integration of those that are granted international protection. For some that will mean receiving access to our health services. At the same time, the people who arrive in Europe must be given the

opportunity to pay their way, through access to the labour market. And there is an obvious counterbalance to the demands they make of our healthcare system with the contributions that they can make to it. I hear of many medical professionals coming to Europe seeking to rebuild their lives; doctors and nurses, pharmacists and researchers, carers and therapists. In the next year I hope to hear heart-warming stories of their integration into our national health services, care homes, research institutes and universities and the valuable contribution they are making.

And one reason to welcome these new arrivals is the reason I gave you in my message for last year's World Health Summit – Europe's population is getting older, which makes it increasingly difficult to provide for our healthcare needs. I know that you will again address the healthcare challenges of an aging population at this year's Summit. Setting strategic research priorities will be of fundamental importance, and I am pleased that the European Commission continues to make an important contribution through our Horizon 2020 funding program.

Another area where we are making an important contribution is eHealth. More and more people are taking steps to monitor their own health and lifestyles

through wearable devices and smart-phones. These form an excellent contribution to prevent and monitor diseases. Through the Connecting Europe Facility, we are contributing to building Europe's digital health infrastructure. So far, 20 of our Member States have applied for funding to connect their systems and exchange health data and patient information or to offer e-prescriptions and reduce the administrative burden on our care systems.

Let me conclude by mentioning the health-care industry, which is one of the major drivers of jobs, growth and innovation in Europe. We need a successful economy to sustain our European social model, and you are an intrinsic part of this with the

many thousands of jobs you create and sustain. The world is getting older, and the world is in need of health technology to sustain us as we go through a major demographic change. Europe must lead the way in looking after its own citizens, and it must generate a competitive advantage in the global market for health-care services and products.

I wish you a fruitful Summit, and another year of success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission