



Angela Merkel

Germany holds the G7 Presidency in 2015. Health matters are a key item on our agenda. We are primarily focusing on infectious diseases, which are one of the most common causes of death worldwide. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa was a painful reminder of what a devastating impact the uncontrolled outbreaks of such diseases can have.

Close international cooperation is vital in order to be better prepared for such epidemics in the future or, in the best case scenario, to be able to prevent them in the first place. Whether it is a matter of being able to provide rapid emergency aid at any time or of promoting research in the fight against antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases, we can only overcome such global challenges if we work together across national and cultural borders and across the scope of professional and political competence.

The World Health Summit is an excellent venue for expert discussion on the health topics that move us worldwide. We can expect it to deliver valuable input, also as regards the G7 objectives and the post 2015 agenda for sustainable development.

As patron of the World Health Summit, I would like to welcome all the participants to Berlin. The conference will open doors for you to new insights, contacts and collaboration. This personal benefit can pay dividends to many people. The hopes of countless numbers of people are resting on this. I am extremely grateful for your great dedication in so many fields.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Angela Merkel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

2015 nimmt Deutschland die G7-Präsidentschaft wahr. Auf unserer Agenda haben auch Gesundheitsfragen einen zentralen Platz. Unser Augenmerk gilt vor allem Infektionskrankheiten. Sie gehören weltweit zu den häufigsten Todesursachen. Welche verheerenden Folgen unkontrollierte Ausbrüche solcher Krankheiten haben können, hat uns die Ebola-Epidemie in Westafrika schmerzlich vor Augen geführt.

Um für die Zukunft besser auf solche Epidemien vorbereitet zu sein oder sie bestenfalls sogar verhindern zu können, kommt es vor allem auf einen engen internationalen Schulterschluss an. Ob es nun darum geht, jederzeit rasche Nothilfe gewährleisten zu können oder etwa im Kampf gegen antimikrobielle Resistenzen und vernachlässigte Tropenkrankheiten entsprechende Forschungen voranzutreiben – nur wenn wir über Grenzen von Ländern und Kulturen, über fachliche und politische Zuständigkeiten hinweg zusammenarbeiten, können wir solche globalen Herausforderungen meistern.

Der World Health Summit ist eine hervorragende Plattform für den fachkundigen Austausch über Gesundheitsthemen, die uns weltweit bewegen. So lässt er auch mit Blick auf die Zielsetzungen der G7 oder auf die Post-2015-Agenda für nachhaltige Entwicklung wertvolle Impulse erwarten.

Als Schirmherrin des World Health Summit heiße ich alle Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer in Berlin herzlich willkommen. Ihnen öffnet die Tagung Türen zu manchen neuen Erkenntnissen, Begegnungen und Kooperationen. Dieser persönliche Gewinn kann sich für viele bezahlt machen. Damit verbinden sich Hoffnungen unzähliger Menschen. Lassen Sie mich Ihnen daher für Ihr vielfältiges Engagement aufrichtig danken.

Angela Merkel
Bundeskanzlerin der
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

WELCOME MESSAGE 2015 FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE



François Hollande

The world climate conference (COP21) will be held in Paris this December. Health and climate are both inextricably linked and interdependent. This was the theme of the World Health Summit 2014, whose participants stressed the importance of international solidarity.

We have witnessed this solidarity in recent months, when the Ebola virus once again struck West Africa. To be effective, this solidarity must be based on exchanges and shared knowledge and experiences. Therefore, by maintaining education as one of the six main themes of the 2015 World Health Summit, there is no doubt that its organizers wanted to highlight the importance of the training period for future health actors to raise their awareness of the main issues for the future: education, prevention, detection.

Your involvement and your declarations at this World Health Summit will play an important role in informing the international community. Thank you very much.

François Hollande
President of the French Republic

La conférence mondiale sur le climat se tiendra à Paris au mois de décembre prochain. Santé et Climat, ces termes sont liés l'un à l'autre, tant l'une dépend de l'autre. Ce fut le thème du sommet mondial de la santé 2014 dont les participants avaient mis l'accent sur l'importance de la solidarité internationale.

Cette solidarité, nous l'avons observée ces derniers mois lorsque le virus Ebola s'est à nouveau abattu sur l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Pour être efficace, cette solidarité doit s'appuyer sur l'échange et le partage des connaissances et des expériences. Aussi, en retenant l'éducation parmi les 6 principaux termes du sommet mondial 2015, ses organisateurs ont sans aucun doute voulu souligner l'importance que revêt la période de formation des futurs acteurs de la Santé pour les sensibiliser aux grands enjeux de demain: éducation, prévention, détection.

Par votre participation et vos interventions au sommet mondial de la santé, vous avez tous un rôle important: éclairer la communauté internationale. Je vous en remercie chaleureusement.

François Hollande
Président de la République

As President of the European Commission, I am convinced that, by working together in a focused way on certain health-related issues, we can ensure longer, richer lives for the citizens of Europe and the world. I aim to focus on the issues that matter and make a difference; and to concentrate on those areas where European action can really add value to people's lives. Although national health policy remains a national competence, there remains a lot we can do together.

There are many pressing trends in healthcare.

First, we all see the epidemics that can devastate developing countries. Fresh outbreaks like Ebola grab the headlines, while others such as HIV and malaria continue their grim toll. Our common humanity compels us to respond: and I am glad the EU is mobilising in this fight, with political, diplomatic, humanitarian and financial tools – not to mention some promising new research into Ebola treatments.

Second, we have a population that is getting older. In Europe today, we see 65 as the age for retirement; but, not so far into the future, one in three adults could be over that age. That poses a challenge for our healthcare systems: set up to focus on acute conditions; but which now must deal increasingly with chronic, degenerative illness. This will call for a systemic change, blurring the boundaries between health and social care, and between home and hospital; and also calls for investment to fight such chronic conditions.

And third, there is a growing resistance to antibiotics – a resistance which already today causes 25,000 deaths a year. This is a major public health challenge – calling for a coordinated, committed response.

Yet, alongside these trends, we have many opportunities to improve efficiency, accessibility and resilience of healthcare. From electronic prescriptions to telemonitoring, digital technology can offer Europeans better quality care. I would like to see a Europe that is able to exploit those new opportunities: innovative, investing, and digital.

The EU can help Member States address the challenge of increased calls on health services, and more complex technology. Under my Presidency, the European Commission will support the EU's capacity to deal with crisis situations in food safety or pandemics; especially Ebola. We will develop EU policies on medicines and pharmaceutical products – while taking fully into account that medicines are not goods like any other. We will develop expertise on how health systems perform, feeding into our broader economic policy coordination. And we will ensure that the healthcare sector – like so many others – is able to capture the benefits of a borderless digital single market.

In these areas and more, we can work more effectively when we work together. I wish you all the best doing so at the World Health Summit.



Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission



Jean-Claude Juncker