



## How can the EU strengthen health security and prepare for future health crises with a health budget cut short?

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*“While we are glad to see that European leaders reached a compromise agreement, we are greatly disappointed about the enormous cuts in the health budget” commented CPME President Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery on the outcome of the European Council 17-21 July 2020.*

Over the past months policy makers all over the European Union strongly advocated for more investments in health, research and pandemic preparedness. The Commission announced to invest € 9.4 billion Euro into health structure and personnel by the “Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF)” and the “Next Generation EU” recovery fund. However, the European Council decided to cut out the recovery fund dedicated to health – amounting to € 7.7 billion.

*“This decision reflects that priorities other than people’s health come first” said Prof. Montgomery. “It is cheap and easy to applaud those who have risked their lives to combat COVID-19. But when it comes to real decisions European leaders prefer industry and commerce to health and patients. European Doctors call on the European Parliament to intervene and to stand up for health.”*

***For more information, please contact:***

*Annabel SEEBOHM  
CPME Secretary General  
Tel.: +32 477 81 32 44  
secretariat@cpme.eu  
www.cpme.eu*