

## **CEOM statement**

### **Ethical and deontological issues in times of conflict**

In light of the escalating armed conflicts around the world and their devastating impact on human life, public health and healthcare systems, the European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM) strongly reaffirms that peace is not a mere aspiration but a major determinant of health.

From its origins, medicine has been based on compassion, solidarity, and the protection of human dignity.

Given the moral authority they hold, and the trust placed in them by society, physicians have an ethical, deontological and humanitarian duty to speak out in defence of human life and health.

In the spirit of European unity, the CEOM states that:

International humanitarian law and the Geneva conventions must be respected, as must the WMA's resolutions on this issue.

Attacks on civilians, physicians, medical personnel and healthcare facilities as well as the abuse of medical facilities, vehicles and symbols for military purposes during conflicts, violate humanitarian law.

Safe corridors must be established and be fully protected to enable the delivery of healthcare.

The continuity of essential care must be guaranteed to all in all circumstances.

All patients should always be treated without any discrimination following the ethical principles of dignity, equity and justice.

Peace must be sought as it is a major universal determinant of health.

