

Dear Sir

Today is World Toilet Day. It may sound like a joke, but the lack of access to a safe toilet or clean water is responsible for 28% of child deaths worldwide, killing more children than HIV and AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

That's over 4,000 children under five dying each day from diarrhoeal diseases alone.

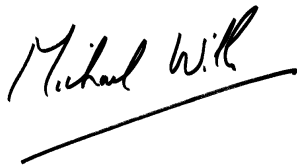
As medical leaders from across Europe, we know that investment in safe sanitation was one of the most important actions in slashing child mortality rates in our own countries, and allowing our economies to prosper.

Yet today, across the developing world, the provision of these most basic services is sorely neglected, fatally undermining the global fight against poverty and disease.

The cost of inaction has been too high, yet the opportunity to make real progress to end this global health crisis remains if we have the right leadership.

In supporting the international End Water Poverty campaign, we call on our political leaders from across Europe to honour their promises to tackle this global health crisis - including those made last year in the EU Agenda for Action on the Millennium Development Goals - to ensure that no child need die because they are denied their most basic of rights.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Wilks
President, Standing Committee of European Doctors



Dr Cl. WETZEL

Dr Claude Wetzel
President, European Federation of Salaried Doctors



Dr Raymond Lies
President, European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians



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