

Professor Vlastimil Válek
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health
Palackého náměstí 4
128 01 Praha 2
Czechia

Brussels, 26 October 2022

Re: Implementation of the EU Medical Device Regulation 745/2017 (MDR) – Urgent Need for Legislative Action

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Válek,

As industry leaders of the medical technology industry, we would like to reiterate our serious concerns regarding the current implementation status of the Medical Devices Regulation 2017/745 (MDR).

Unless immediate action is taken, Europe faces a scenario where a high number of existing medical devices, upon which patients, hospitals and other health institutions rely, will fail to be re-certified on time and therefore risk to permanently disappear from the market. At the same time, certification of new and improved products is also delayed, resulting in delayed patient access to the benefits of innovation.

We therefore call upon you to urgently support and introduce measures of *legislative nature* (i.e., via formal amendment of the MDR) to safeguard the continuity of patient care across Europe and the world.

After more than five years of implementation, the MDR regulatory system still lacks sufficient certification capacity needed to certify

- 1) Existing devices that have been on the market for years and that are required to undergo re-certification under the Regulation by no later than 26 May 2024 and
- 2) New or significantly changed devices.

There are around 25,000 certifications under the former Medical Devices Directives covering hundreds of thousands of existing devices. As of today, only a small fraction of these former certifications has been replaced with the needed MDR certifications. To make things worse, more and more of these former certifications are expiring, with two thousand expiring now in 2022, double that amount in 2023, and more than seventeen thousand expiring in the first four months of 2024.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have exacerbated this situation by creating supply chain disruptions, issues with conducting on-site audits and with clinical investigations.

Since the EU Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting of June 2022, national regulatory authorities in the Medical Devices Coordination Group have proposed 19 (non-legislative) measures via the paper MDCG 2022-14, which are designed to free up some Notified Body capacity.

Although we welcome this rapid work, it is our unequivocal assessment that these 19 solutions are insufficient. They only partially address the structural issue of Notified Body capacity, and they fail to directly address the growing emergency of expiring certifications. They also fail to provide a workable regulatory pathway for new devices whose technological innovation can bring needed solutions to Europe's pressing healthcare challenges.

Legislative solutions are therefore needed as soon as possible, *in addition* to the non-legislative work conducted thus far. Specifically, we urge the EU institutions to take legislative action to:

- (1) **Extend the validity of the Medical Devices Directive and Active Implantable Medical Devices Directive Certificates:** to maintain access to existing devices. These extensions should be given in a similar manner to the January 2022 amendment of the *in vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation, i.e., with different deadlines for each device risk class.
- (2) **Allow conditional/temporary MDR certification:** to maintain access to existing devices, substantially changed and new devices, for example by allowing time to finish compiling further data/evidence needed to meet MDR requirements
- (3) **Abolish the MDR Article 120(4) 'warehousing' deadline:** to allow the continued sale of existing devices beyond the May 2025 end-date, provided that they are manufactured before the 26 May 2024. This will allow to avoid needless disposal of devices already placed on the market.

We strongly encourage you to swiftly embrace these measures, but also to continue working to strengthen the role of Europe as an attractive region of the world for investments in medical technology innovations. This could be achieved by setting as a priority timely patient access to best-in-class breakthrough technologies which address unmet medical needs through clear regulatory pathways.

Taking into account this situation, we, the signatories of this letter, call on you to work on concrete legal solutions that allow us to comply in time with the new MDR requirements. We stand ready to collaborate, to individually meet with you and discuss solutions that address the many complex challenges.

Best regards,

Cc:

- **MEP Peter Liese**, ENVI Coordinator for the EPP
- **MEP Tiemo Wölken**, ENVI Coordinator for S&D
- **MEP Nils Torvalds**, ENVI Coordinator for Renew
- **MEP Bas Eickhout**, ENVI Coordinator for Greens/EFA
- **MEP Alexandr Vondra**, ENVI Coordinator for ECR
- **Stella Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- **Thierry Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- **Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission

Please note: we are sending this same letter to fellow Ministers across the European Union

Karim Mansour
Senior Vice President, Healthcare, EMEA
3M

Antonio Sanchez Migallon
Administrador Solidario
Akus Innovation in Anaesthesia

Juan Antonio Matachana Aramburu
Consejero-Delegado/Chief Executive Officer
Antonio Matachana

Rick Aguilera
President / Chief Executive Officer
Aaren Scientific Inc.

Mauro Beccaro
Managing Director
AL.CHI.MI.A SRL

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Chief Executive Officer,
Unternehmensleitung
**Apomedica Pharmazeutische
Produkte GmbH**

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Administrador
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Sophie Dutilloy
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ARW Technologies

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Director of External Relations &
Business Development
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Geoffrey Stevens
Senior Vice President EMEA & Asia Pacific
AtriCure Europe B.V.

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Chief Executive Officer
Addi Medical AB

Adnane Belhaj
Chief Executive Officer
amb consult sas

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Ahat Alper Kilinc
President
Anadolu Tip

Emilio Barta
Vicepresidente Finanzas y Control Europa
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Pedro Jose Salazar Salegui
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BD

Louise Meiners
Managing Director
bon Optic Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH

Orla Connaughton
Founder & VP Regulatory and
Clinical Affairs
Aztec Medical Ltd.

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SILVANO BERTASINI
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Silvano Bertasini
Amministratore Delegato e
General Manager
Beckman Coulter Srl

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CooperSurgical

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Sole Representative
CID Spa

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Prokuristka
DIPROS d.o.o.

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Eakin Healthcare

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EDAPTMS

Digitalno podpisano Lenart Girandon
DN: c=SI, o=Elevenja, ou=Elevenja, cn=Lenart Girandon, email=girandon@elevenja.si, serialNumber=245973213822, cn=Lenart Girandon
Datum: 2022.10.08 10:41:03 +02'00'

Lenart Girandon
Chief Executive Officer
EDUCELL d.o.o.

Jean-Luc Lemerrier
Corporate Vice President EMEACLA
& JAPAC
Edwards Lifesciences SA

Gonzalo Maroto
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Bsc Optometrist
EYEART Laboratories Karageorgiadis

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Amministratore Unico
FARMAC ZABBAN S.p.A.

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CEO
FARMACEUTICI DAMOR S.p.A.

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FARMACEUTICI DAMOR S.p.A.

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& Member of the Management Board
Fresenius Medical Care AG & Co. KGaA

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Head of Finance & HR
Fuhrmann GmbH

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Strategic Business & PM BU Manager
Medical Systems Division
Fujifilm

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Legal Representative
G21 S.r.l.

Werner Tschan
Chairman of the Board of directors
Galifa Contactlinsen AG

Rob Walton
President & Chief Executive Officer for
Europe, Middle East and Africa
GE HealthCare

Firmato digitalmente da Monica Renata Lorenza Sordi
Data: 10/16/2022 16:31:23

Monica Renata Lorenza Sordi
CEO
General Medical Merate S.p.A.
Via Partigiani, 25
24058 Soriano (BG) ITALY
Phone: +39 035 4328111
Email: monica.sordi@gmmrta.com

Monica Renata Lorenza Sordi
Chief Executive Officer
General Medical Merate S.p.A.

Dr. Matthias Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer
Gimmi GmbH

Robert Olsson
VD
Gisys AB

Guy D'haeseleer
EMEA Business Leader, Gore & Associates
Gore

Javier Schmidt Reparaz
Chief Executive Officer
Grupo Kalma

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Managing Director
Gruppo Bioimpianti Srl

Andrew Sette
Managing Director, V.P. Intl. Regulatory
and Government Affairs
Haemonetics S.A.

Filippo Lanzi
President of EMEA & LatAm Region
Haleon

Piotr Hammer
Chief Executive Officer
**Hammermed Medical Polska sp.
z o.o. SKA**

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VD, President, PDG
HEA Medical AB

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HERMES ARZNEIMITTEL GmbH

Oscar Martinez Jordan
Managing Director
Hersill

Hill-Rom S.p.A.
Maurizio Fumagalli
Amministratore Delegato

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FUMAGALLI MAURIZIO
Firmato il 12/10/2022 11:36
Seriale Certificato: 19108331
Valido da 07/07/2020 al 07/07/2023
InfoCert Firma Qualificata 2

Maurizio Fumagalli
Amministratore Delegato
Hill-Rom S.p.A.

Jan Langenbach
Managing Director
HMT Medizintechnik GmbH

Dr. Rodrigo Tupynambá
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Hoffrichter GmbH

Stefan Kremer
Dipl.-Wirtsch.-Ing., MBA
Vorstand / COO

Stefan Kremer
Board Member / COO
Human Optics

William Lee, PhD
President
ICARES Medicus, Inc.

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DE ANDRES (R: RICARDO DE ANDRES (R:
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Date: 2022.10.08 08:49:41 +02'00'

Ricardo de Andrés de Francisco
Director General
Icu Medical Iberia

Igrobe
N.I.F.: B-62754700
Av. Corneilla, 342, 4921
08950 Espinasses de Llobregat
Tel. 902.01.96.84 - Fax: 902.10.49.90

Francisco Javier Nicolás Linares
Administrador Unico
Igrobe Rodar 2001

Annette Brodin Rampe
Chief Executive Officer
ImagineCare AB

Jens Sass
Chief Executive Officer & Shareholder
implantcast GmbH

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Life Vascular Devices Biotech

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Procurator QMR
INTERDENT d.o.o.

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InVera Medical Limited

Markus Puchleitner
Head of Controlling and Sourcing,
Proxy Holder
Kwizda Pharma GmbH

Manuel Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer, Technical Director
Linear Chemicals

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Domenico Ganassini di Camerati
President
**Istituto Ganassini S.p.A. di Ricerche
Biochimiche**

Alberto Bueno Gallego
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Laboratorios Salvat, S.A.

Gunilla Eriksson
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Link Sweden AB

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Company Group Chairman, MedTech
EMEA
Johnson & Johnson

Javier Camps
Chief Business Officer
Laboratorios Urgo

Damien McDonald
Chief Executive Officer
LivaNova

Anna Ramebäck
VD
Journalia AB

Juan M. Diaz
General Manager
LeMaitre Vascular Spain - Iberia

Wolfgang Süssle
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Lexel

Thomas Reins
Chief Executive Officer / Geschäftsführer
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GmbH & Co. KG**



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General Manager
Madespa

Georges Sarrouf
Chief Executive Officer
mark'envoy Personalize Care SL

Fried Vancraen
Chief Executive Officer
Materialise NV

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Responsable Técnico
Materlab

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MCM Klosterfrau Vertriebs GmbH

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MD TECH S.R.L

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Managing Director
MEDA Pharma S.p.A. (a Viatris Company)

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Chief Executive Officer
Medacta International SA

Jonas Lundh
VD
Medclair AB

Stefan Blomsterberg
Chief Executive Officer
Medfield Diagnostics AB

Maikel Hendriks
Chief Executive officer
Medical Brands B.V.



Regina Bosch
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Precision Implants

Dr. Silvia Heise-Grubner
Geschäftsführerin Primary & Consumer Care
**MEDICE Arzneimittel GmbH
Österreich**

Mikael Paulsson
Managing Director
Medicinsk Bildteknik Sverige AB

Martin Lehner
Chief Executive Officer
Medi-Globe Technologies GmbH

PICTURE OF YOUR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

First name, Last Name Nadja Kristan
Exact Title CEO
Company Name MEDILINE d.o.o.

Nadja Kristan
Chief Executive Officer
MEDILINE d.o.o.

Johan Bongstorp
Chief Executive Officer
Mediplast AB



DE BENETTI
VALEGGIA
ANDREA
12.10.2022
10:16:02
GMT+01:00
Andrea De Benedetti Valeggia
Executive Vice President
MEDIVAL S.r.l.

Tripp Amdur
Group President
**Medline Industries, LP/Medline
International B.V.**

Robert Heavyside
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Rob ten Hoedt
Executive Vice President & President,
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Joaquín Carreras Giménez
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Chief Executive Officer
Oped GmbH

Adam Smith
President, EMEA
Merit Medical

Best regards,

NeoDynamics AB

Anna Eriksrud
Chief Executive Officer
NeoDynamics AB

DocuSigned by:

F43548CB542F448
Michel Zennou
Managing Director
OPHTHALMIC COMPAGNIE

Michel Zennou
Managing Director
Ophtalmic Compagnie

Nik De Corte
Chief Executive Officer
Messer Medical Home Care

Serge Kemps
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OPTO-CENTAR OPTIKA
d.o.o., Zagreb

Niko Lukenda
Chief Executive Officer
Opto Centar optkia d.o.o.

Benoit Clinchamps
President
MicroPort

Digitally signed by Wallenstein Mike
DN: dc=com, dc=novartis,
ou=people, ou=GD,
serialNumber=1254377,
cn=Wallenstein Mike
Reason: I am approving this
document
Date: 2022.10.06 15:43:21 +02'00'

Mike Wallenstein
Global Head RA Medical Devices &
Precision Medicine
Novartis Pharma AG

Kimberly Ann Elting
President, Global Orthopedics and Legal
Representative of Orthofix S. r. l.
Orthofix

Michael Geutler
Geschäftsführer / Chief Executive Officer
MMM Münchener Medizin Mechanik GmbH

DANILO CRAPELLI
C.E.O.
NOVAVISION GROUP S.P.A.

Danilo Crapelli
Chief Executive Officer
Novavision Group S.p.A.

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ODC Industries

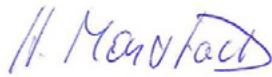
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Oxel Etxebarria
General Manager
Osatu



Gonzalo Sierra Cordón | CEO | OSTEOGENOS SL

Gonzalo Sierra Cordón
Chief Executive Officer
Osteógenos



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Managing Director
phenox GmbH



Esperanza Nolasco Bethencourt
Sole Director
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Prof. Dr. Marc Oliver Schurr
Chief Executive Officer
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Polytech Health & Aesthetics GmbH



Jürgen Steinbeck
Geschäftsführer | Co-Chief Executive Officer
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Country Manager Roche Diagnostics Baltics
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Dr. Horst Poosch
Chief Executive Officer/Head of regulatory
affairs, director trade law
Panaceo International GmbH



Manuel Alfonso Fernández
Chief Executive Officer
Proclinic Group



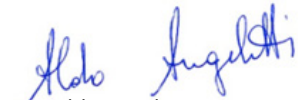
Amanda LoGuidice
Vice President, QA/RA & Product Science
RTI Surgical



Liam Mullins
Chief technology Officer
Perfuze Ltd



Benjamin Binot
President, Oral Care Europe
Procter & Gamble



Ing. Aldo Angeletti
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**S.A.L.F. S.p.A. Laboratorio
Farmacologico**



Marco Perego - PERMEDICA S.p.A.
Amministratore Unico e Legale Rappresentante

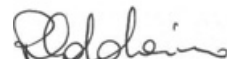
Marco Perego
Amministratore Unico e Legale
Rappresentante
Permedica spa



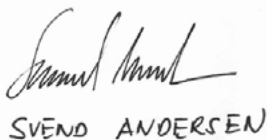
Ralf Klein
Geschäftsführer/ Chief Executive Officer
Radimed GmbH



Paul Martingell
SVP Region Head Europe
Sanofi Consumer Healthcare

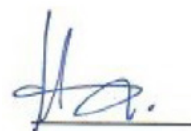


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Sapi Med SPA



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Steris

Torbjörn Kronander

President and CEO
Sectra AB (556064-8304)

Torbjörn Kronander
President and Chief Executive Officer
Sectra AB

Susanne Siedler
Managing Director
Signus Medizintechnik

Ralf Wiedemann
Geschäftsführer Vertrieb Inland
Stiegelmeier GmbH & Co. KG

Pia Renaudin
Chief Executive Officer
Senzime AB

SIMPSS
SIMPSS d.o.o.

Vladimir Miličević
Managing Director
SIMPSS d.o.o.

Stuart Silk
President Europe, EEMEA, Canada & Latin
America
Stryker

Stefan Pfeiffer
Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer
and Partner
SERAG-WIESSNER GmbH & Co. KG

Francis Jannot
Executive Vice President, International Sales
Sirtex

Johan Ungerstedt
Chief Executive Officer
Surgeon Development AB

Dr. Daniel O'Mahony
Partner
Seroba Life Sciences Venture Capital

Juan Alcántara Morales
Chief Executive Officer
Smart Solutions Technologies

Thomas Seitz
Chief Executive Officer
SURGI LAB AG

Dermot Scanlon
Chief Executive Officer
Serosep

Peter Coenen
President, EMEA
Smith & Nephew

Paan Hermansson
Chief Executive Officer
Suturion AB

Diana Mochintra
General Manager
SIDAPHARM P.C.
Ophthalmic & Medical Disposable Products

Diana Mochintra
General Manager
Sidapharm PC

María Jesús Salido
Chief Executive Officer
Socialdiabetes

Tony Doherty
Managing Director
Synecco

Esteban Xam-Mar Mangrane
Administrador
Talladium España

Matthew James
President, EMEA and Global Urology
Teleflex Medical

Mark Lansu
Chief Executive Officer
Teleon Surgical BV

Iván del Valle
Chief Executive Officer
Termosalud

Nori Kunimoto
Chief Executive Officer
Terumo Europe

David Caumartin
Chief Executive Officer
Theraclion

Petra Borovinšek
Chief Executive Officer
TIK d.o.o.

Mojca Šimnic Solinc
Chief Executive Officer
TOSAMA d.o.o.

Tomas Hansson
Chief Executive Officer
Toul Meditech AB

Petrus Berglund
Chairman of the Board. Half owner
Treatlite Corporation AB

Christoph Ulrich
Managing Partner
ulrich GmbH & Co

José Alberto Domínguez Álvarez
General Manager
Unión Dental

Isabelle Van Rycke
President & Chief Executive Officer
UPSA SAS

Sascha Glanemann
Chief Executive Officer DACH
Urgo GmbH

Guirec Le Lous
Président
Urgo Medical

Doris Babić Antonić
Director
Valencia Stoma-Medical d.o.o.

Chas Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Veryan Medical

Victor Valles
General Manager
Vesimin Health

Simon Javornik
Chief Executive Officer
VI VIS d.o.o.

Joaquín Mendoza Montero
General Manager
VIRCELL

Christer Wähländer
Chief Executive Officer
Visuera Integration AB

Frank Keane
Chief Executive Officer
Vitalograph

Göran Wikefeldt
Chief Executive Officer
Vitrosorb AB

Giulio Fumagalli Romario
Presidente e Consigliere Delegato
VIVISOL S.r.l.

Sebastian Harren
Chief Executive Officer
Vostra GmbH Medical products

Stephane Regnault
Président du Directoire
Vygon

Angela Paredes
Directora/GM
W&H Iberica

Jasna
Sturm

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Jasna Sturm
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Jasna Šturm, CEO
Zaloker & Zaloker d.o.o.

Jasna Šturm
Chief Executive Officer
ZALOKER & ZALOKER d.o.o.

Helmut D. Link
Owner & Chief Executive Officer
Waldemar Link GmbH

Mats Palerius
Chief Executive Officer
Zenikor Medical Systems AB

Miguel Angel Giles Moreno
General Manager
Waldemar Link España, S.A.

Miguel Angel Giles Moreno
General Manager
Waldemar Link Espana S.A.

ZIACOM
F. 20115195

Alejandro del Valle
Chief Executive Officer
Ziacom

André Schulte
Chief Executive Officer Group
**WEINMANN Emergency Medical
Technology GmbH + Co. KG**

Wilfred van Zuijlen
President EMEA
Zimmer GmbH

Dott.ssa Fulvia Lazzarotto
Legale Rappresentante
Welcare Industries SpA

Pavel Novák
Wilens s.r.o.

Luca Ravagnan
Chief Executive Officer
Wise S.r.l.

Przemysław Wolicki
Prezes Zarządu
WSR Comfort sp. z o.o.