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**The multifaceted implications of Brexit on health  
in Europe and beyond.**

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**Introduction**

This presentation aims at focusing on the health implications of a foreign policy decision which is apparently not related to public health. Consequently, it belongs to these academic studies which have tried to shed light on such link between foreign policy and public health by assessing, for example, the consequences of wars on health systems and health of the population<sup>1</sup>, of the “Washington Consensus” in the 1990’s on health conditions in developing countries<sup>2</sup> as well as the impact of the decision to develop nuclear sovereignty like in France in the 1960’s on the French population especially in French Polynesia where nuclear bombs were tested<sup>3</sup>, or of the exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO and its potential impact in case of pandemic<sup>4</sup>.

The reason to talk about the multifaceted implications of Brexit on Health in Europe and beyond is threefold. First, during the campaign for the referendum on UK and the EU, the Leave proponents have been able to spread the idea – and to convince people - that membership of the EU costs the UK £350 million a week and that leaving the EU will able the UK to spent this money on the National Health Service (NHS) which desperately needs such financial injection<sup>5</sup>. While such message bore no relationship to reality and that scholars have proved that figures were totally wrong as the “EU cost” for the UK was more around £136 million a week – if one take into account the money received by the UK from the EU – it reveals to us that public health has been a significant topic of the Brexit campaign.

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<sup>1</sup> L. Meigari (2018) Impact of war on child health in northern Syria: the experience of Médecins Sans Frontières, *European Journal of Pediatrics*, 177(3): 371–380.

<sup>2</sup> D. Sakellariou (2017) The effects of neoliberal policies on access to healthcare for people with disabilities, *Int J Equity Health*, 16: 199.

<sup>3</sup> Jean-Marc Regnault (1985), *La bombe française dans le Pacifique*, Au vent des Iles, 184p.

<sup>4</sup> J. Herington (2014), The limits of global health diplomacy: Taiwan's observer status at the world health assembly, *Globalization and Health*, 10:71

<sup>5</sup> ‘Nigel Farage: £350 million pledge to fund the NHS was 'a mistake', *The Telegraph*, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016.