



PMI's response to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism's article regarding our donation of ventilators to the Greek government

During this unprecedented public health crisis, Papastratos (PMI's Greek affiliate) and other local companies were asked by the Greek Ministry of Health (MoH) to help them urgently source more ventilators. This is primarily because the MoH understood that commercial procurement could present a much faster option than the state system. Other companies are following suit to help provide resources, in a collaborative approach to find solutions to the crisis.

PMI has not publicized this donation. However, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) has published a false article, describing it as a "coronavirus publicity stunt". A week prior to publication, PMI sent a full response to the BIJ, making them aware their claim was simply false, and providing them with the following response:

"Your research will clearly show that PMI has taken no steps to publicize this donation. For the avoidance of doubt, PMI has:

- Not distributed a press release
- Not posted about this on Papastratos' or PMI's social media
- Not mentioned this on our website
- Not provided interviews or further details regarding the donation to journalists who have enquired

Individuals who have been involved in sourcing this emergency equipment have shared their thoughts and feelings about being able to support their community on their personal social media accounts (e.g. Twitter / LinkedIn)"

Explaining the full context, PMI provided the BIJ with a statement outlining how PMI is approaching coronavirus and why we made the donation. Sadly, they decided not to reflect this in their article.

Dr. Moira Gilchrist BSc (Hons) Pharmacy, PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences. Vice President, Strategic & Scientific Communications at Philip Morris International, said:

"This global crisis needs the entire global community to come together and use every available resource to help people in need. During this unprecedented public health crisis, Papastratos and other local companies were asked by the Greek Ministry of Health to help them urgently source more ventilators. We were happy to help the Greek government fulfil a critical need by sourcing this lifesaving equipment. Protecting people, families and communities is what matters at this time, and we are saddened that—during a global health pandemic—special interest groups believe it is the right time to criticize a company for stepping up to provide the much-needed support."



PHILIP MORRIS
INTERNATIONAL

We also demonstrated to the BIJ the transparency which has characterized our work with the Greek Government, and the influence our donation has had on other companies.

The Greek MoH recognized the contribution in a [press release](#), ensuring transparency in its interactions with PMI. Following this MoH announcement, other companies have indeed followed suit, adding another 70 lifesaving ventilators to the total number contributed (note: delivery is ongoing).

PMI is currently dealing with a major health crisis, affecting colleagues across the world. Our focus is on supporting them, their families, and their communities. It saddens us that the BIJ is choosing to be critical of good deeds and distracting from efforts to support and minimize this pandemic.