

A LEADING health expert says the swine flu scare was a "false pandemic" led by drugs companies that stood to make billions from vaccines.

Wolfgang Wodarg, head of health at the Council of Europe, claims major firms organised a "campaign of panic" to put pressure on the World Health Organisation to declare a pandemic.

He believes it is "one of the greatest medicine scandals of the century" — and has called for an inquiry.

An emergency debate on the issue will be held by the Council later this month.

Dr Wodarg said: "It's just a normal kind of flu. It does not cause a tenth of deaths caused by the classic seasonal flu.

"The great campaign of panic we have seen provided a golden opportunity for representatives from labs who knew they would hit the jackpot in the case of a pandemic being declared.

"We want to clarify everything that brought about this massive operation of disinformation. We want to know who made decisions, on the basis of what evidence, and precisely how the influence of the pharmaceutical industry came to bear on the decision-making."

He added: "A group of people in the WHO is associated very closely with the pharmaceutical industry."

The WHO has recently reaffirmed its stance that the pandemic is not over. However, the number of swine flu deaths is dramatically lower than expected.

Last year, Dr Wodarg raised concerns about swine flu vaccines, saying they could cause dangerous allergic reactions.

In an interview with France's L'Humanite, he said: "The vaccines were developed too quickly. Some ingredients (adjuvants) were insufficiently tested.

"But there is worse to come. The vaccine developed by Novartis was produced in a bioreactor from cancerous cells — a technique that had never been used until now.

"This was not necessary. It has also led to a considerable mismanagement of public money.

"The time has come at last for us to make demands on governments. The purpose of the inquiry is to prevent more false alarms of this type in the future.

"We must make sure people can rely on the analysis and the expertise of national and international public institutions. The latter are now discredited, because millions of people have been vaccinated with products with inherent possible health risks."

He added: "In Germany this has cost about 700million Euros. But it is very difficult to know the exact figures because we are talking about vaccines resold to foreign countries, and most firms do not communicate due to the principles of 'trade secrets'."

It is believed the British government is desperately trying to offload up to £1billion of swine flu vaccine, ordered at the height of the scare.

The Department of Health warned of 65,000 deaths and set up a special advice line and website.

Anti-flu drugs were given out without prescription, and local health authorities were told to prepare for a major outbreak.

Planners were ordered to get morgues ready for the sheer scale of deaths and there were warnings the Army could be called in to prevent riots as people fought to obtain drugs.

But fewer than 5,000 caught the bug last week, and just 251 have died from it overall.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2803049/Swine-flu-false-pandemic-claim.html?OTCRSS&ATTR=News#ixzz0cU1D2atK>