



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*

April 2018

Dear CPME members,

*I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin which aims to inform you about the Executive Committee meeting held in Brussels on 12 April, and other relevant policy updates.*

*The Executive Committee discussed many items including a call to action on patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health and a letter of support to the Taipei Representative Office.*

*Furthermore, on behalf of the CPME Executive Committee and the Secretariat, I would like to thank all of you for your active contribution to fruitful CPME meetings.*

*We hope the bulletin is informative and we invite you to consult our [latest news](#).*

Kind regards,

Dr Jacques de Haller  
CPME President

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## Executive Committee meeting

### Internal affairs

#### Draft Board and General Assembly agendas

*The EC took note of the agendas.*

#### Request from Taipei Representative Office

*The Executive Committee decided that CPME should send a letter to the Presidency of the Council of the EU calling for support for Taiwan's attendance of the upcoming World Health Assembly meetings which are scheduled from 21-26 May 2018.*

#### The Taipei Representative Office in the EU requested CPME support on the matter of Taiwan's access to WHO meetings.

With the endorsement of governments (particularly the US) and NGOs (particularly the WMA), Taiwan received invitations to attend the World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer from 2009 to 2016. Since May 2016 WHO's invitation to Taiwan to attend the WHA has been blocked by the Chinese government.

In addition to exchanges at international level, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU is reaching out to the EU level for support. It was explained that EU-level cooperation was important to Taiwan on the basis of the shared belief in health as a human right, its regard of the EU as an ambassador for humanitarian values and Taiwan's position as a dependable partner in an otherwise unstable region. Furthermore Taiwan closely monitors EU policy, for example on medical devices, which it considers to be the gold standard.

Taiwan wishes to be observer to the WHA by invitation (this is one of the least formalised types of participation) to maintain access to the international health community. The mutual benefit of this is particularly high for coordination on infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness, e.g. SARS. They feel that health policy should be elevated above politics. To this end the Taipei representative office asked CPME to provide a letter of support to generate EU level action on this issue.

### Finance

#### Regular Presidents' Roundtable and conferences

*In order to accommodate both the presidents' roundtable and conference on a specific dossier within the programme of the CPME general meetings, the Executive Committee decided that, from now on, the conference will take place on the Friday mornings, while the presidents' roundtable would take place on Saturday morning before the CPME Board and General Assembly meetings.*

This would ensure both events can take place within the overall framework and budget. It was agreed that this should be applied for the CPME meeting in November 2018.

### Policies

#### SCiE Self-care Initiative Europe

*The Executive Committee decided to wait for the final version of the SCiE manifesto before deciding whether to endorse it. The draft still lacks some basic information and does not indicate the project partners. Many pharmaceutical companies were listed as interested parties. Their involvement is unclear.*

On 22 March 2018, the CPME Executive Committee decided to participate in the SCiE Policy Impact Task Force

on Self-care, coordinated by the [Danish Committee for Health Education](#), the [European Health Futures Forum](#) and [Third-i](#). The task force is drafting a manifesto to be put on the [SCiE website](#). The purpose of the manifesto is to present the main framework of SCiE policy position and the top priorities of the initiative, allowing the group to speak with one voice. It outlines the SCiE goals and vision for the next 5 years, especially in light of the upcoming changes in leadership at EU level.

Furthermore, during the EC meeting it was highlighted that the memorandum of understanding between CPME and SCiE still needs to be revised and signed.

### **Patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health**

*The Executive Committee decided to participate in the drafting process of the call to action on patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health. However, the final decision whether to endorse the call to action will be taken after the final version of the document is presented.*

During the discussion, industry's involvement in the process was questioned. Gamian-Europe ([Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks](#)) is 70% funded by the industry. The Call will be formally launched in a meeting of the [European Parliament Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders](#) on 16 May 2018.

### **Joint action on Antimicrobial Resistance (EU-JAMRAI)**

*The Executive Committee decided to commission the Secretariat to revise the [EU-JAMRAI](#) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and to send it back to the coordinator of the joint action. Furthermore, the CPME President is commissioned to sign the consolidated MoU.*

EU-JAMRAI aims at bringing together EU Member States, international organizations and universities to contribute to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and health care-associated infection (HCAI). It will capitalise on existing initiatives and propose concrete steps to reduce the burden of AMR and HCAI.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at formalising the scope of cooperation between the EU-JAMRAI project participating partners and the members of the Stakeholder Forum, to which the EC decided to take part in October 2017.

### **Ernst & Young study related to the Health Programme**

*The Executive Committee took note of the CPME response to the survey conducted by Ernst and Young on the Health Programme and eHealth.*

Within the framework of the preparatory work for the next Multiannual Financial Framework ([MFF](#)), Ernst & Young has recently been contracted by the European Commission (DG SANTE) to carry out a data gathering study in relation to a future Health Programme. The Commission is seeking guidance with regard to the identification of the expected impacts from the Health Programme and on how to translate them into relevant indicators. In this context, Ernst and Young consulted a wide range of health stakeholders, including CPME.

## **International calendar**

The Executive Committee reviewed the CPME participation at forthcoming meetings of CPME members, European Medical Organisations and international partners.

## **Any other business**

It was reported that DG SANTE has invited CPME to speak at a forthcoming meeting of the [Member States' WG on health system performance assessment](#). The Commission is interested in national medical associations'

views and/or experiences with the identification and implementation of indicators to measure performance, as well as all other aspects relating to this project. The WG offers Member States the opportunity to exchange experiences on – the currently widely divergent – national practices in this area. At the same time the information collected is taken into account, e.g. for the European Semester. The Executive Committee saw both positive and potentially negative sides to becoming involved, therefore it was decided to ask the membership during the CPME Board meeting on 14 April 2018.

The Executive Committee welcomed the invitation of the Finnish Medical Association to hold CPME meetings in November 2019 in Helsinki to coincide with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

## Monitoring news

### 4th Meeting of the Steering Group on Health promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

On 11 April 2018, the European Commission's Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases met for the fourth time. The Group aims to take positions on priority actions to be implemented in all areas of health promotion and non-communicable disease prevention. They address health inequalities, nutrition, physical activity, reduction of tobacco use, alcohol-related harm, and screening, as well as the management of non-communicable diseases. In the meeting, the Member States had a chance to present their experiences and priority areas. Member States decided that the focus in the 2018 round of selecting best practices for co-funding will be on nutrition and physical activity. Please find the report [here](#).

### Building Cooperation in cross-border healthcare: new study maps state of play and opportunities

The Commission has published a study on 'Cross-border cooperation: capitalising on existing initiatives for cooperation in cross-border regions'. It maps the EU-funded cooperation projects for the period 2007-2017 in EU/EEA and Switzerland. It provides insights into opportunities and challenges for cross-border cooperation in healthcare and also offers guidance on collaboration on health workforce and training, emergency care, high-cost capital investment, knowledge production, sharing, management, treatment and diagnostics. The findings will contribute to the report on the operation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive due to be published later in the year. More information can be found [here](#).

### Commission proposal on next EU budget scheduled for 2 May

On 2 May 2018, the Commission will propose the next long-term budget for the EU, the [Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\)](#) after 2020. In preparation, the European Parliament, which has to consent to the final budget, recently adopted two reports, setting out its own position on the MFF post-2020, and commenting on reform needs for the EU's system of own resources. The MFF will have to take account of Brexit and other developments, such as the increased cooperation in the Eurozone. CPME's [lobbying activities](#) on retaining a budget line for DG SANTE's public health programme are continuing. More information can be found [here](#).

## Tobacco-financed think tanks call on WHO to end plain packaging

An international alliance of 62 think tanks sent an open letter to the WHO, advocacy groups and civil-society organisations. In the letter it stated that it is time to end the “ineffective” plain packaging for any kind of tobacco product. The group believes plain packaging brings a “gross violation” of intellectual property rights. They cite a 2016 study conducted in Australia which apparently showed that plain packaging had no effect on the decline of smoking. The letter was met by rebuttals by various tobacco-control groups and the European Commission. The European Network of Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) pointed to previous research published in the British Medical Journal in March 2015, which shows the impact of plain packaging on young people’s perception of tobacco products. The full news article can be found [here](#).

## Greek court rules that e-cigarettes should be subject to tobacco-control laws

The Supreme Administrative Court of Greece has decided that electronic cigarettes should have the same legal restrictions as traditional smoking does when it comes to bans in public places and advertising. More information can be found [here](#).

## “Continued obstruction from some stakeholders” causes CEN to postpone meeting on healthcare services

The secretariat of the CEN Healthcare Services Focus Group (HSFG) has announced that the next meeting, which had been scheduled for May 2018, will be postponed due to “continued obstruction from some stakeholders.” While CPME decided to no longer attend the group’s meetings, other stakeholders participated in the last meeting of the group which took place in November 2017. On this occasion, it was decided to carry out a mapping exercise, however this is intended to cover only “all types of existing standardisation documents and [...] the types of organisations providing them”, and explicitly excludes clinical guidelines, laws or regulations, therefore ignoring the legally binding documents which are at the core of the argument against standards for healthcare services.

## Two years on, positive evaluation of EPC and alert mechanism

The European Commission has published an evaluation report on the functioning of the European Professional Card (EPC) and alert mechanism since their launch in 2016 ([CPME Info 077-2018](#)). The two tools were introduced with the revision to the Professional Qualifications Directive in 2013. While doctors have been subject to the alert mechanism since the beginning, CPME and others voiced concern about the EPC, resulting mainly from the new division of tasks between home and host Member State and the shorter deadlines for processing applications for recognition of qualifications. Doctors were therefore excluded from the first phase of the EPC’s introduction, but physiotherapists, nurses and pharmacists joined the project. The evaluation report shows largely positive feedback on the EPC and highlights that “*neither the statistics, nor the feedback on EPC revealed any particular patient safety threats, especially concerning the three health professions concerned.*” There are however no references to any plans for further roll-out to more professions. On the alert mechanism, the evaluation also shows that the tool is working well, and on-going improvements on the technical features of the alerts are making it progressively easier to filter the most important alerts from those relating to administrative issues. The lack of harmonised approach on triggers of alerts results in some Member States notifying event such as non-payment of chamber fees, while others use the alert only when a professional loses a licence in a final unappealable decision. The evaluation report follows a series of opportunities to provide feedback, which CPME participated in (e.g. [CPME 2017/032 FINAL](#)).

## European Immunisation Week 2018

On 23-29 April 2018, the annual European Immunization Week is organised by WHO Europe, with the support of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The objective of the week is to increase awareness of the importance of immunisation and to help building and sustaining herd immunity in all communities throughout Europe. This year's theme is "Vaccines work" with the focus on immunisation as an individual right and shared responsibility to help close immunisation gaps and further progress towards the global Sustainable Development Goals. Please find more information [here](#).

## Digital Day 2018: EU countries commit to cooperate more on artificial intelligence and cross border access to genomic data

In the context of the Digital Day 2018, EU countries committed to do more together on the digital front. In particular, 25 European countries signed a [Declaration of cooperation on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#). They agreed to work together on the most important issues raised by AI, from ensuring Europe's competitiveness in the research and deployment, to dealing with social, economic, ethical and legal questions. In the meantime, 13 countries also signed a [Declaration of cooperation on genomic databanks](#) for delivering cross-border access to their genomic information. The signatory Member States (CZ, CY, EE, FI, IT, LT, LU, MT, PT, SI, ES, SE and UK) commit to collaborate on the secure and authorised access to national and regional banks of genetic data and other data relevant for health. The Commission will support these Member States in setting up a voluntary coordination mechanism of public authorities to link ongoing genomic medicine initiatives. All the joint initiatives can be found [here](#).

## Compromise on Proportionality Directive successful in safeguarding health

The Proportionality Directive is in its final stages of completion. The compromise negotiated by the Council and the European Parliament has been approved by both institutions and is awaiting the rubber stamp to enter into force. The compromise text includes extensive references to the need to protect health and allows Member States a significant margin of discretion in regulating health professions. Given that the Council and the European Commission were strongly opposed to any kind of special status for health professions, this is a successful outcome and should effectively limit the Directive's impact on doctors. Please find the final text at [CPME Info 076-2018](#) and the joint press release with CED, CPME and PGEU [here](#).

## CPME General Assembly and Board meetings 2019



05 - 06 April 2019, **Malta**



15 - 16 November 2019, Helsinki (**Finland**)

## Recent publications on the CPME website and members' section

### From CPME News section:

- Press release: [European dentists, pharmacists and doctors welcome the final compromise on the Proportionality Directive](#)
- Press release: [Outcomes of the CPME General Assembly and Board meetings on 14 April 2018 in Brussels, Belgium](#)
- [CPME statement on the Commission's legislative proposal on Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\)](#)
- [CPME Policy on Trans Fats](#)
- Press release: [Health Professions welcome the opinion of the European Parliament on the next EU Budget](#)
- Press release: [We deserve better – reaction to alcohol industry self-regulatory proposal for labelling](#)
- Joint letter: [CPME, PGEU and CED call on the Commission to include Health Programme in the next EU Budget \(MFF\)](#)

### From CPME members' section:

- Report [of EMA Healthcare Professionals' Working Party \(HCPWP\) meeting](#)
- [The trilogue outcomes of the Proportionality Directive, by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, Brussels 11 April 2018](#)
- [Turkey 2018 Report, by the European Commission](#)
- [How to assess and compare health system efficiency?, by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#)
- [Assessment of stakeholders' experience with the European Professional Card and the Alert Mechanism procedure by the European Commission, Brussels April 2018](#)
- [REV 2 DRAFT Joint Statement of the European Medical Organisations on the Role of Medical Doctors in diagnosis, treatment, and coordination of multidisciplinary care – CPME amendments](#)
- [CPME National Report Turkey, April 2018](#)
- [CPME National Report Malta, April 2018](#)
- [Draft revised CPME-PGEU opinion paper on adherence to medicinal treatment \(REV1\)](#)
- [Draft revised CPME-EFPIA joint declaration on the cooperation btw the medical profession and pharma industry \(REV1\)](#)
- [Final CPME statement on the Commission's legislative proposal on Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\)](#)
- Report [on meeting of CPME and DG SANTE on health workforce policy, 14 March 2018](#)
- [CPME National Report Austria, April 2018](#)
- [CPME response to Ernst and Young survey on the Health Programme and eHealth](#)
- Report [on the meeting of the Advisory Board Meeting of the Joint Action on Market Surveillance of](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

### Keeping Europe Healthy: Brexit and the European Medical Profession

If you require access to the European Parliament, please send an email to Mr [Robert Delis](#) ([rdelis@bma.org.uk](mailto:rdelis@bma.org.uk)) with the following personal details:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Type of ID: national or passport
- ID number



## Keeping Europe Healthy: Brexit and the European Medical Profession

Hosted by Wajid Khan MEP

Brexit and the European medical profession. **Dr Jacques de Haller**, President of the CPME

The pan-European medical workforce. **Dr Kitty Mohan**, President of the EJD

The Irish Question: the medical profession and healthcare collaboration in a post-Brexit Ireland. **Prof Trevor Duffy**, Chair IMO (Irish Medical Organisation) International Affairs Committee

Medical Research in a post-Brexit Europe. **Miguel Reis Ferreira**, Clinical Research Fellow, Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden NHS Trust

**European Parliament: ASP 3G2**

Wednesday 23 May 2018 | 18.30 – 20.00

