



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!

December 2018



Dear CPME members,

I am happy to share with you the winter edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the latest events and news as well as the decisions taken during the Executive Committee web-meeting on 13 December 2018.

The Executive Committee discussed, among other things, the CPME application to European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) liaison group and the Joint Statement of the European Associations representing Liberal Professions on the implementation of the Proportionality Directive.

In ten days, our Colleague Frank Ulrich Montgomery will take over the Presidency of CPME and I want to wish him here all the best in this mandate. May he have as much pleasure as I had meeting you all, working and discussing with you – for me, these have been three wonderful years and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity you gave me to engage with passion for the European medical profession and its ideals and vision: a high-quality, ethical and sustainable Medicine for all living on this continent.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a beautiful Holiday Season and health, peace and happiness for the coming year.

Kind regards,
Dr Jacques de Haller
CPME President

Contents

Executive Committee meeting	3
Internal affairs.....	3
Policies	3
International calendar.....	5
Any other business.....	5
Monitoring news	5
EANA presented a position on artificial intelligence in the health sector.....	5
The Council adopted a recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases.....	5
The European Court of Justice delivered its judgment in the case on possibility of unilateral cancelation UK's decision to leave the EU	6
JURI Committee tabled its report on a whistleblower directive	6
The European Commission published a roadmap on its Recommendation to establish a Format for a European Electronic Health Record (EHR) Exchange	6
The Austrian Presidency tabled a progress report on the proposed regulation on HTA	6
New Council Recommendation on Vaccination.....	7
CPME news and publications	7
Recent publications on the CPME website	7

Executive Committee meeting

Internal affairs

Statutes change

The Executive Committee recommended submitting statutory option 2 ([EC 2018/113](#)) to CPME members on 04.01.2018, three months ahead the next CPME General Assembly.

The Icelandic, Belgian, German and Hungarian Medical Associations are prepared to submit the draft with the caveat that the General Assembly Agenda in April 2019 might still be subject to change given the uncertainties around Brexit.

EESC Liaison Group Promoting civil dialogue and participatory democracy

The Executive Committee decided to apply for a seat in the liaison group affiliated to the European Economic and Social Committee ([EESC](#)), which addresses ‘promoting civil dialogue and participatory democracy’.

The EESC liaison group brings together representatives of ‘the main sectors of organised civil society at European level’ and is chaired by EESC members. Its objective is to act as a bridge between civil society and the EU institutions, as well as offering a platform for civil society representatives to discuss. There are two meetings per year, as well as occasional additional activities. From the health sector, the International Alliance of Mutuals ([AIM](#)) and the European Public Health Alliance ([EPHA](#)) are already members of the liaison group.

TMA court dates (26/12, 27/12)

The Executive Committee was informed about the decision of the CPME President Dr de Haller to not attend a hearing on 27 December 2018 in Ankara (Turkey). CPME is in fact expected to attend the more relevant follow-up proceedings in the matter in 2019.

In the past weeks, CPME has responded to the appeal by the Turkish delegation to support the TMA in its activities concerning **a)** the trial against Dr Halis Yerlikaya, who together with a group of other health workers attempted to provide healthcare to patients in Cizre, and is now accused of being a member of a terrorist organisation and engaged in propaganda of that organisation; the trial will continue on 26 December 2018 and **b)** the trial against 11 Central Council members of the Turkish Medical Association for their press release ‘War is a Public Health Problem’ published on 24 January 2018; the trial will commence on 27 December 2018. CPME has contacted the EU delegation in Turkey to alert the officials to the various developments; their responses confirm their awareness and engagement on these issues.

CPME has also received further up-dates from the Turkish delegation on recent developments, including the final provisions of the newly adopted law which makes access to medical practice subject to a ‘security clearance’ and imposes sanctions on those doctors who do not attain the clearance.

Please find below CPME Press Releases on the Turkish situation:

[08 November 2018](#)

[10 August 2018](#)

[30 January 2018](#)

Policies

Proportionality Directive

The Executive Committee agreed to co-sign the draft joint statement of the liberal professions on the implementation of the [Proportionality Directive 2018/958/EU](#) as amended.

The draft joint statement was prepared within the informal alliance of EU-organisations representing liberal professions, which CPME meets with. It is addressed to Member States and highlights the opportunities for

taking into account the specificities of the different professions in the transposition process, so national laws make full use of the margins of discretion the Directive offers, in particular to protect regulation for health professions.

Memoranda of understanding with EU joint actions

The Executive Committee decided to sign the Memoranda of Understanding of the Joint Action on AMR (EU-JAMRAI) and the Joint Action on Vaccination (EU-JAV).

The Joint Action on AMR ([EU-JAMRAI](#)) started in September 2017 and the Joint Action on Vaccination (EU-JAV) in August 2018. Both 3-year projects are coordinated by the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research ([INSERM](#)). CPME is invited to join the Stakeholder Forums to provide strategic advice to the projects. Members of the Forums will participate in the annual General Assembly meetings and may also be consulted sporadically throughout the project when relevant.

In order to facilitate discussions on the project and to be able to share relevant documents, INSERM is asking CPME to sign the Memoranda of Understanding and non-disclosure agreements.

Healthy Marketing Alliance

The Executive Committee decided to sign a Statement of Intent.

In September 2017 (more info on the [Monthly bulletin, September 2017 edition](#)), the CPME Executive Committee expressed its interest to continue the work with the informal NGO coalition on healthy marketing, to minimise the exposure of children and youth to health-harmful marketing, in particular to alcohol and unhealthy foods marketing.

The work initially started with joint lobbying on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ([AVMSD](#)). The group now looks at promoting the AVMSD implementation and at policy measures to tackle digital marketing. With this new scope in mind, the first meeting took place in October 2018. At this meeting the European Public Health Alliance ([EPHA](#)) presented a “Statement of Intent” formalising further collaboration.

According to the statement EPHA offers taking care of coordination and secretariat functions. Other participants include the European Alcohol Policy Alliance ([Eurocare](#)), the European Heart Network ([EHN](#)), the European Centre for Monitoring Alcohol Marketing ([EUCAM](#)), the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies ([AIM](#)) and the IOGT-NTO temperance movement. The latter don't have to fulfil particular obligations. With signing the statement these merely express their interest to continue working together.

The next meeting will be in early 2019 aiming to define more concrete activities.

BMA survey on health systems

The Executive Committee approved the request of the UK delegation to disseminate a survey on national experiences with healthcare reforms to the CPME membership.

The survey was forwarded to CPME in the context of a reform project for the NHS in Scotland in which the shift of services from secondary to primary care is envisaged.

Title of the CPME statement on Europeanisation of basic medical training

The Executive Committee decided to change the title of the recently adopted CPME statement to '[CPME Statement on the digitisation of cross-border basic medical training](#)'.

The revision follows the request of the CPME Board made during its meeting on 10 November 2018. At the time, the Board adopted the text with the request to the EC to revise the statement's title to avoid any misinterpretations as to CPME's position on European cooperation on medical education.

International calendar

The Executive Committee took note of the international calendar and agreed to forward any further discussion to the new EC members-elect who will take office from the 1st of January 2019.

Any other business

Slovak Medical Chamber survey on registration of doctors

The Executive Committee approved the request of the Slovak delegation to disseminate a survey on the governance of doctors' registrations to the CPME membership.

The background to the survey is a planned reform as regards the competences on doctors' regulation in Slovakia.

Monitoring news

EANA presented a position on artificial intelligence in the health sector

At its meeting on November 30th, 2018 in Luxembourg, EANA (European Working Group of Practitioners and Specialists in Free Practice) has resolved that AI is an additional technology at the service of patients to provide them quickly with quality medical information, thereby giving them the necessary elements to control their health.

Moreover, EANA states that initial and continuous medical education must be adapted rapidly to allow optimal use of the tools of artificial intelligence and to help manage the evolution of medical progress. EANA recommends utmost vigilance to the institutions in the evaluation of the care needs to train the health professionals as closely as possible to the needs of the population.

More information can be found [here](#)

The Council adopted a recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases

The document sets out a number of actions to be undertaken by member states and the Commission, within their respective competencies, in particular regarding vaccination plans, the establishment of a European Vaccination Information Sharing system, monitoring of benefits and risks of vaccinations, and the strengthening of vaccine supply, as well as communication and education activities relating to the benefits of vaccination and to counteracting vaccine hesitancy. Ministers also held an exchange of views on tackling vaccine hesitancy at EU and national level: Challenges and possibilities in a digitalised world. The debate was based on a presidency steering note inviting ministers to share best practices to increase vaccination coverage and consider ways of fighting disinformation on vaccines, among others.

[More information can be found here](#)

The European Court of Justice delivered its judgment in the case on possibility of unilateral cancellation UK's decision to leave the EU

ECJ ruled that the United Kingdom is free to revoke unilaterally the notification of its intention to withdraw from the EU. Such a revocation, decided in accordance with its own national constitutional requirements, would have the effect that the United Kingdom remains in the EU under terms that are unchanged as regards its status as a Member State. That possibility exists for as long as a withdrawal agreement concluded between the EU and that Member State has not entered into force or, if no such agreement has been concluded, for as long as the two-year period from the date of the notification of the intention to withdraw from the EU, and any possible extension, has not expired.

More information can be found [here](#)

JURI Committee tabled its report on a whistleblower directive

On 20/11/2018, there was a vote in the committee on the amendments and on 27/11 they tabled a [report](#). Now, on the plenary session of the EP it will be voted whether to give the committee a mandate to start negotiations with the Council. However, the Council hasn't adopted its general approach yet so the trilogue will not start soon. The most importantly from CPME perspective, in the JURI committee the amendment concerning Recital 69 (medical secrecy, confidentiality) was adopted and it is now in the report.

Legislative procedure in the parliament can be consulted [here](#)

The European Commission published a roadmap on its Recommendation to establish a Format for a European Electronic Health Record (EHR) Exchange

The [initiative](#) aims to make it possible for people to access their health records across borders as needed for cross-border healthcare purposes such as in case of accidents while travelling, or to seek treatment of chronic conditions, or rare diseases. As trust is essential to the success of this initiative, it must develop in a way that reassures citizens with regard to the security of their personal data and to their data privacy. The initiative also aims to facilitate the flow of health data across borders to the benefit of citizens so as to underpin the digital transformation of health and care, and to increase the availability of health data for research purposes, enabling society to use new technologies in pursuit of new treatments and disease prevention approaches. It will recommend the establishment of a European Electronic Health Record exchange format and will propose a set of common technical specifications for the transfer of health data in chosen categories of health information such as patient Summaries and e-prescriptions and proposing further categories.

It is envisaged that the Recommendation would cover the following:

invite Member States to put in place strategies and where needed adapt their legislative framework to promote secure access, including cross-border, to their Electronic Health Records, recommend Member States the adoption and further evolution of common technical specifications (including established protocols and data formats) for a European Electronic Health Record exchange format enabling cross border access to health data, and propose a way of working between Member States, relevant stakeholders and the European Commission to continuously improve and develop specifications and standards, implement the exchange format for Electronic Health Record and monitor uptake across the EU.

The Austrian Presidency tabled a progress report on the proposed regulation on HTA

During the Austrian Presidency (June – December 2018), the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices met 7 times. First three meetings of the Working Party showed that the main concern of delegations vis-à-vis the proposal is to clarify how the proposal, once adopted, will influence national decisions on the

reimbursement of medicines or medical devices by national health insurance schemes. In this regard, a large majority of delegations considered that Member States should have the possibility to carry out national clinical assessments when necessary.

In October, the Presidency tabled a revised text, based on written and oral contributions by delegations and it was examined by the Working Party during its four further meetings.

Among others, it was noted that several delegations cannot agree to any degree of mandatory use of JCA in their national procedures and consider that JCA cannot bind Member States, since HTA is used for pricing and reimbursement decisions and those are of national competence. Those delegations hold that, as the JCA is a purely scientific process, it could only be a tool for decision-making and not in itself be legally binding.

All delegations hold that the discussions should continue at technical level.

For more information please consult the [Progress Report](#)

New Council Recommendation on Vaccination

On 7 December 2018, the EU Health Ministers adopted a Recommendation to strengthen the EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases. The initiative aims to tackle vaccine hesitancy, improve coordination on vaccine procurement, support research and innovation, and strengthen EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases. CPME provided input by participating in the [public consultation](#) and by meeting with Director-General for DG SANTE earlier in 2018. Compared to the European Commission's Proposal for a Council Recommendation in April 2018, the final Recommendation leaves out the examples of community-based providers such as pharmacies. However, the Recommendation still highlights the need to bring immunisation services closer to citizens. Please find the Recommendation [here](#).

CPME news and publications

Recent publications on the CPME website

Members' section:

[Report on the conference on The Future of Mental Health, 16 November 2018, Brussels](#)

[Report on 2nd Meeting of the CEmPaC Programme Board, Copenhagen, 24-25 October 2018](#)

[Report on Workshop on Digital Marketing & Meeting of Marketing Alliance, 30 October 2018, Brussels](#)

[Report on the Launch of the Lancet Countdown 2018 Report: Briefing for EU Policymakers, 5 December 2018, Brussels](#)

[Report on the Health Equity Pilot Project \(HEPP\) – Final Conference, 6 December, 2018, Brussels](#)

[Report on the Health & AI Innovation Summit, 3-4 December, 2018, Brussels](#)

[UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health: the health of a world on the move, 5 December 2018](#)

[Report on Taking stock and the way forward, 3 December, 2018, Brussels](#)

[CPME Statement on the digitisation of cross-border basic medical training](#)

CPME News section:

[European Medical Organisations' Statement on Supporting Vaccination](#)

[Dentists, Doctors and Veterinarians call for the implementation of a One Health culture in undergraduate education](#)