



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!

July 2019

Dear CPME members,

We are delighted to send you our summer edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the Executive Committee decisions taken on 19 July 2019.

The CPME Executive Committee agenda included, among other items, a discussion about the dissemination of the survey on Europeans' attitude towards vaccination and about the organisation of the second joint debate on One Health in undergraduate education, taking place on 4 December 2019 in Warsaw (Poland). And of course: Brexit was an issue as well with further appeals to European politicians to ensure mobility and recognition of European physicians in the UK and elsewhere.

We take the opportunity to wish you a pleasant summer holiday and invite you to visit our website updated on CPME activities and policy developments.

Kind regards,
Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
CPME President

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Executive Committee meeting

Internal affairs

WHO-Europe Regional Committee 2019

The Executive Committee was informed that CPME will be present at the forthcoming [WHO-Europe Regional Committee meeting](#), taking place in Copenhagen on 16-19 September 2019.

Members have been invited to join the CPME delegation at their own cost. CPME will prepare interventions on the most relevant agenda items, in case there is the opportunity to present them during the debate. Also, it is planned to schedule bilateral meetings with the WHO officer responsible for the topics on the joint CPME-WHO work plan to strengthen contacts. The meeting will also see the election of the new regional director, however CPME will not be able to observe this process.

Call for candidates for co-chair of the HCPWP

The Executive Committee decided to nominate Dr Podmaniczky for a position of Co-Chair of the Healthcare Professionals' Working Party ([HCPWP](#)) as she is already familiar with the working party. In case of unavailability of Dr Erzsébet Podmaniczky, Dr Christiaan Keijzer expressed his willingness to candidate.

The election will take place on 24 September 2019 and in case of appointment of a CPME candidate for the position, CPME will then be able to designate a new member to replace him/her as member of the HCPWP. The HCPWP, established in 2013, has enabled the European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#)) to build upon its existing interactions with healthcare professionals. It provides recommendations to the EMA and its human scientific committees on all matters of interest in relation to medicines. More info available [here](#).

Joint debate on One Health in Undergraduate education, 4 December 2019 Warsaw (Poland)

The Executive Committee decided that Immediate Past President Dr Jacques de Haller will represent CPME on the occasion of the second joint debate on One Health in undergraduate education on 4 December 2019 in Warsaw (Poland). Dr de Haller will also moderate the second panel of the day 'Why One Health is important?' where speakers and participants will share experiences on the implementation of One Health approach in undergraduate education.

Following the positive experience of the first debate which took place in Paris on 5 December 2018, CPME, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, the Council of European Dentists the Pharmaceutical Group of European Union and their students' organisations are now addressing academics, policy-makers, professionals and students in Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. The objective is to encourage an open discussion and exchange views on how to implement the One Health approach in undergraduate education and foster interdisciplinary education , in these four European countries.

Policies

EBCOG Project for Achieving Consensus in Training (PACT) curriculum

The Executive Committee decided to decline the invitation to endorse the curriculum (promoting video [here](#)) developed by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology ([EBCOG](#)) with a reference to the

competence of the European Union of Medical Specialists ([UEMS](#)) in the matter.

The endorsement was requested by a public affairs consultancy acting on behalf of the EBCOG section of UEMS which is coordinating a promotion and dissemination campaign for the curriculum. The EC agreed that the sporadic endorsement of curricula produced by UEMS sections would confuse the relative competences of UEMS and CPME. It was therefore agreed that the endorsement should be declined. It should be clarified that this decision is not a comment on the quality of the curriculum as such.

TO-REACH consultation

The Executive Committee decided to submit a response to the consultation of the “Towards a joint European research programme on health services and systems ([TO-REACH](#)) project” as regards a strategic research agenda for health.

The Executive Committee members were presented with the project which aims to streamline and improve the European research agenda on health by pooling funding institutions’ planning and resources. The aim is to avoid duplications of research, i.e. by improving the methodology for assessing transferability of good practices. In further steps, there may be the opportunity to provide further input to this process. The EC agreed to participate in the consultation for now and monitor if further engagement is appropriate.

CPME participation in the EU call on AMR

The Executive Committee took note of the European Commission [call for project proposal](#) contributing to the implementation of the [EU guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in human health](#) and decided to postpone any decision on CPME involvement.

CPME has been contacted by the [EU-JAMRAI](#) which will apply to this call as coordinator and asked if CPME would like to join a consortium they want to establish. Due to the lack of concrete information on activities and other potential consortium partners, the EC members agreed to decide on participation by written procedure once detailed information is available.

CPME participation in the EU call on AMR – updates by written procedure: 19.07.2019

Considering the relevance of the topic at EU level and that AMR is a top policy priority for CPME, the Executive Committee decided to express CPME’s general interest in participating in the consortium, with the possibility to reassess the decision once the overall application becomes more precise.

The Secretariat contacted the project coordinator to gather more information. However, at the moment no more background material, i. e. a concept note, a general plan or an in-depth structure is available. For now, the idea is to simply get relevant stakeholders and Member States on board and to identify work package (WP) leaders and co-leaders. The latter are asked to outline their ideas for the work packages. Partners and ideas will be consolidated within one action plan. This action plan will be drafted by the coordinator before the application deadline on 10 September 2019.

Survey on Europeans' attitude towards vaccination

The Executive Committee decided to disseminate a survey on Europeans' attitude towards vaccination.

The request was made by the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#) and the [Vaccine Confidence Project](#) which produced a vaccine confidence [report](#) for the European Commission in 2018, surveying also around 1,000 GPs in 10 EU countries (CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, IT, PL, RO, SK, UK). According to the results, GPs are overall confident in the safety, but their confidence in MMR vaccination is lower in Eastern Europe (CZ, SK). This year, the aim is to extend the study to get a better picture of Europe. The CPME members are invited to answer the survey in autumn 2019. The questions will be available in all EU languages.

Brexit

The Executive Committee approved to co-sign the joint letter of the European Medical Organisations on Brexit addressed to the new Commission president-elect and the president of the European Parliament.

The next weeks are expected to be decisive for the Brexit process: the new UK prime minister may decide to leave the EU without adopting the withdrawal agreement (i.e. 'no deal Brexit') on 31 October. Alternatively, the UK could decide to ratify the withdrawal agreement in which case the European Parliament would also be asked to approve it. Lastly, there is also the possibility that the UK will request a further delay of the Brexit deadline.

The Executive Committee also approved a letter addressed to the National Medical Associations requesting action at national level to ensure the future national regulation on the recognition of doctors' qualifications is as close as possible to the current system even in case of a 'no-deal' Brexit.

It was confirmed that the British Medical Association encouraged both activities and will be closely consulted as to next steps.

Coalition for Vaccination

The Executive Committee took note that CPME had accepted to co-chair the [Coalition for Vaccination](#), convened by the European Commission earlier in 2019.

As part of the Coalition, European associations of healthcare professionals as well as students' associations commit, among others, to work in collaboration with the national associations to deliver accurate and transparent information to general public; to join efforts to increase confidence in vaccines and improve uptake of vaccination by citizens; to publicly show their confidence in vaccination; to combat myths and fake information related to vaccines; to invest in education and communication and collaborate with peer organisations.

The Coalition members will meet on 11 September 2019 to discuss further steps and to decide how to finance their commitment(s).

International calendar

The Executive Committee took note of the international calendar and decided to ask the Greek delegation whether they could attend parts of the EMSA General Assembly in Athens 2-6 September 2019.

Any other business

The Commission workshop on biosimilars

The Executive Committee decided to participate in the workshop 30 October 2019 in Brussels and that Prof. Dr André Herchuelz will represent CPME, as he already expressed his availability.

Prof. Herchuelz will report back to the EC members allowing them to assess whether biosimilars should remain as a silent dossier.

Council of Europe Round table on good practices in mental health care Brussels November 2019

The Executive Committee took note of the Council of Europe round table on good practices in mental health care organised in Brussels either 25, 26 or 27 November 2019. Prof Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery and Dr Jacques de Haller indicated availability 25 or 26 November 2019. A decision as to representation will be taken at a later stage.

The Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics ([DH-BIO](#)) intends to instigate a study on good practices in mental healthcare and how to promote voluntary measures. CPME is invited to send one representative to the round table.

Monitoring news

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) – 8 July 2019

[EPSCO](#) ministers held a public policy debate on the Economy of wellbeing based on the [steering note](#) prepared by the Finnish Presidency. The Finnish Presidency reaffirmed their commitment to working on the Economy of Wellbeing, and the mutually reinforcing interlinkages between human wellbeing and sustainable economic growth. Despite GDP being a useful tool for measuring market production and providing an indicative snapshot of an economy at a given time, it does not provide a comprehensive picture of the wellbeing of people. That is why evidence-based policy-making requires the use of a broad set of indicators, comprehensive impact assessments and a long-term perspective.

Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD presented the OECD's findings on the topic, as set out in a

background note [“The Economy of Well-being. Creating opportunities for people’s well-being and economic growth”](#) commissioned by the Finnish presidency. Mr Gurría outlined the four main pillars of the economy of well-being. The first pillar is about education and skills, being the most important driver of long-term economic growth. The second pillar is about health. Evidence shows that good health fuels economic growth, productivity and individual earnings. The third pillar is about social protection and redistribution. Both play an important role in reducing economic volatility and fostering resilience. The fourth pillar is about gender equality. Raising women’s employment and hours worked can deliver productivity gains and higher GDP growth.

During the meeting, the ministers also approved the [country-specific recommendations \(CSR's\)](#) falling under the responsibility of EPSCO. You can find the full briefing [here](#)

Vaccination against measles increases amid ongoing measles outbreaks in Europe

The WHO European Region achieved 91% routine immunization coverage for the second dose of measles vaccination in 2018. This marks the second consecutive year in which the level of coverage has reached a record high in the Region, according to the WHO–United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates of national immunization coverage released today. The resurgence of measles in the Region occurred because of a build-up over time of susceptible individuals in communities and countries with suboptimal immunization coverage. Read the full update [here](#)

Call for clinical experts on Medical Devices to be published later in 2019



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION EXPERT PANELS
ON MEDICAL DEVICES AND IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC DEVICES**

Call for expression of interest to be published in 2019!

More info available [here](#).

Commission president-elect makes commitments on health: action against cancer, pollution; investment in AI

The President-elect of the European Commission, Dr Ursula von der Leyen, has published ‘[A Union that strives for more. My agenda for Europe](#)’, which also mentions her ambitions for health and related aspects. In the context of migration policy, she highlights the importance of investment in the social determinants of young women and men in their countries of origin, which includes health. Dr von der Leyen reminds that "European citizens’ health and the planet’s health go together: it is the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the safety of the products we use." Moreover, she underlines her medical background and commits to creating a 'European plan to fight cancer' to support Member States in

improving cancer control and care. Regarding artificial intelligence (AI), she plans to put forward legislation for a coordinated European approach on the human and ethical implications of AI in the first weeks of her mandate.

Who are the future health advocates in the European Parliament?

Following detailed research and analysis, CPME Secretariat has identified which Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have a proven health background, be it at professional or political level. Please find the list at [CPME Info 091-2019](#). These MEPs can potentially be primary targets of CPME's lobbying efforts across the different committees and introductions will be set up in the coming weeks.

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) elects MEP Pascal Canfin as its chair

The French [MEP Pascal Canfin](#) (Renew Europe) has been elected to chair the European Parliament's ENVI committee. Prior to his election, MEP Canfin was director of the French branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), however he also has political experience as MEP for several periods during the 2009-2014 legislature (at that time, still as a member of the Greens/EFA group), as well as serving as minister for development in the French government. The vice-chairs are [MEP Bas EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA, NL), [MEP Seb DANCE](#) (S&D, UK), [MEP Cristian-Silviu BUȘOI](#) (EPP, RO), and [MEP Anja HAZEKAMP](#) (GUE/NGL, NL).

MEPs include former ministers of health, doctors and health advocates

Following a week of constitutive meetings, the European Parliament (EP) has published the membership composition for its committees. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) is currently the largest in the EP with 76 members. Please find a full list of ENVI members [here](#). Its chair will be elected on 10 July and may go to an MEP from Renew Europe (formerly the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe ALDE). Among the new MEPs, there are a number which are expected to be especially interested in health. These include MEP Ewa Kopacz (PL, EPP), a pediatrician and former health minister as well as prime minister of Poland, who has been elected as a Vice President of the EP on behalf of EPP. In an [interview \(PL only\)](#), stated that she would like to concentrate her work around the ENVI committee and focus particularly on the subject of cancer. Other doctor MEPs include Germany's Renew Europe Dr Andreas Glück who is a surgeon and the reelected Dr Peter Liese (DE, EPP) who is a GP and an internist. Two other former health ministers are also joining the ENVI committee: MEP Bartosz Arłukowicz (PL, EPP) and MEP Dolors Montserrat (ES, EPP). Lithuania has now two doctor MEPs - Rasa Juknevičienė (LT, EPP), a pediatrician, and Juozas Olekas (LT, SD) – a surgeon and former health minister, however neither of them are in ENVI. CPME has identified other doctor MEPs and potential health advocates who will be contacted in the near future. Furthermore the EP has elected Mr David-Maria Sassoli (IT, SD) as its president for the first half of the parliamentary term of office. There is the understanding that former EPP *Spitzenkandidat* Manfred Weber (DE, EPP) would be considered for the position of EP president for the second half.

UNESCO 14th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics will hold the next World Conference in Porto, Portugal during May 11-14, 2020. The aim of the Conference is to serve as an international platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The Conference will be held in collaboration with the World Medical Association, the World Federation for Medical Education, the International Federation of Medical Students Associations, and other leading organisations. The Heads and the members of 235 Units of the Chair from all over the world will attend the Conference. Hundreds of experts from various disciplines are expected to join them and enrich the scientific program.

More information about this event can be found at: www.bioethics-porto2020.com

CPME news and publications

CPME letter on violence against health professionals

As discussed during the EC meeting in May 2019 (please see Monthly bulletin [here](#)), CPME sent a letter to the Bulgarian government upon request of the Bulgarian Medical Association concerning violence against doctors. The letter is available [here](#). No response has been received so far.

Hearings of the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health (EXPH): CPME provides comments on task-shifting and value-based healthcare

CPME attended the EXPH hearings on the Opinions which are being drafted on Task-shifting and on Value-based healthcare. The draft Opinions presented by their respective rapporteurs were opened to stakeholders comments. CPME was represented by Dr Jacques de Haller, please find his summaries of the debates at [CPME Info 087-2019](#).

CPME meets WHO, commitment to improving communication and cooperation

On June 20th 2019 CPME met with the representative of the WHO and WHO-Europe to the EU. During the meeting CPME discussed to strengthen its cooperation with WHO on alcohol policy, antimicrobial resistance, vaccinations, and the health workforce. The WHO extended an invitation to CPME to partake in stakeholder roundtables in Brussels for a systematic exchange of information and ensure coordinated efforts on the above mentioned dossiers. WHO highlighted that the joint efforts of WHO-Europe itself and stakeholders is necessary to reach the EU institutions at different levels with the same message and CPME confirmed its support for WHO recommendations, e.g. on alcohol policy, which the EU agenda currently does not follow. Read the full meeting report [here](#).

Recent publications on the CPME website

Members' section:

[Doctors and health-related MEPs](#)

[CPME Members' Briefing on The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030](#)

[Report on meeting with WHO office to the EU, 20 June 2019](#)

[European Policy Centre \(EPC\) Policy Dialogue on Vaccine Hesitancy event report](#)

[CPME letter on violence against health professionals](#)

[Report on hearings of DG SANTE Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health on Value-based care, 4 June 2019 and Task-shifting, 5 June 2019](#)

[Report on Migration and Health – Social determinants and migrant health by Doctors of the World, 2019](#)

[CPME Monthly Bulletin – June 2019](#)

CPME News section:

[Civil society organisations leave the EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health](#)