



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*



**November 2018**

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*Dear CPME members,*

*I am pleased to share with you the November edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin informing you about the latest events and news as well as the decisions taken during the Executive Committee meeting held in Geneva on 8 November.*

*On behalf of the CPME Executive Committee and the Secretariat, I would like to thank all of you for your active contributions to the fruitful CPME meetings in Geneva on 9-10 November 2018. I express my gratitude to the Swiss Medical Association for supporting the event with enabling the museum visit. I welcome also this opportunity to congratulate the President-Elect Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery and all new EC Members-Elect for their successful elections. The CPME members will support you during your three years term to continue achieving the best healthcare for everyone in Europe. Moreover, I would like to very warmly thank the members of the Executive Committee who will terminate their mandate at the end of the year: Dr Maciej Hamankiewicz, Dr Anastasios Vasiadis, Dr Istvan Eger and Dr Bernard Maillet; their active contribution, tireless support and warm friendship have been deeply appreciated.*

*Finally, I would like to ask you to save the date for the upcoming SEPEN webinar on 12 December at 11h00. Please note that shortly, all technical information and the agenda will follow in the coming weeks by separate email.*

*Kind regards,  
Dr Jacques de Haller  
President of CPME*

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## Executive Committee meeting

### Finance

#### **Current accounts 30 September 2018**

*The Executive Committee reviewed the financial documents with the recommendation to be forwarded to the General Assembly for adoption on 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.*

The documents were circulated among the CPME members in due time beforehand enabling a thorough review (see send-out by CPME Secretariat 18 and 31 October 2018).

#### **Travel costs spent**

*The Executive Committee took note of the travel costs spent by each EC member and CPME Secretariat staff until 30 September 2018.*

### Internal affairs

#### **GA and Board draft agendas**

*The Executive Committee took note of the agendas of the General Assembly and Board meetings taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.*

#### **CPME health check European Elections 2019**

*The Executive Committee took note of the revised version of the CPME Health Check 2019 which includes all the comments and proposals received by the CPME members. The CPME Board will decide on its adoption during the 10<sup>th</sup> November meeting.*

On the occasion of the 2014 European elections, CPME had published a [manifesto](#) calling upon the political groups within the European Parliament, national representatives in EU Member States and the new Commission, to ensure and put as priority in their working agenda, the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare across Europe.

In preparation of the 2019 European elections, CPME is planning to meet with representatives of the EU Institutions and in particular with MEPs that are running for another mandate. The aim of these meetings is to discuss about CPME priorities and CPME expectations towards the future members of the next European Parliament. Furthermore, in support of the Brussels level lobbying strategy, CPME members will be invited to meet with their candidates to introduce CPME and present the CPME Health Check for the European elections 2019.

#### **Applications for CPME observer membership of the Chamber of Doctors of Medicine of the Republika Srpska and the Kosovo\* Doctors Chamber**

*The Executive Committee took note of the applications for CPME observer membership of the Chamber of Doctors of Medicine of the Republika Srpska and the Kosovo\* Doctors Chamber. The EC took also note of the [letter](#) received by the Serbian Medical Chamber on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November concerning the application of the Kosovo\* Doctors Chamber.*

The General Assembly will vote on the applications on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

*\*References to Kosovo are without prejudice to positions on status. They are in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/1999 and the opinion by the International Court of Justice on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

## Policies

### Brexit

*The Executive Committee approved the draft letter to European Network of Medical Competent Authorities ([ENMCA](#)) on Brexit and mutual recognition of professional qualifications (MRPQ).*

The draft letter was presented as a start of a discussion on the situation of MRPQ in the case a no deal was achieved during the Brexit negotiations. It posits the idea of finding an intergovernmental solution in a process led by national competent authorities. It was agreed that the draft letter should be sent after CPME's meeting with the European Commission on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, and in liaison with the coordinators of the ENMCA, ahead of the next ENMCA meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### Medical Devices Coordination Group (MDCG) Subgroups

*The Executive Committee decided not to apply to be an observer in the European Commission's Medical Device Coordination Group ([MDCG](#)) subgroups. However, it was agreed that CPME continues attending the MDCG meetings when stakeholders are invited.*

In 2017, the Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG) was established to provide advice to the European Commission and the Member States in ensuring a harmonised implementation of the new regulations. CPME has attended the meetings of this group when they have been open for stakeholders.

Now, the Commission has published a call for applications for the selection of observers to the following MDCG subgroups:

- 1) Standards
- 2) Clinical Investigation and Evaluation (CIE)
- 3) Post-Market Surveillance and Vigilance (PMSV)
- 4) Borderline and Classification (B&C)
- 5) New Technologies
- 6) Unique Device Identification (UDI)
- 7) International Matters
- 8) In vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVD)

The Commission is looking for experts appointed for an initial period of 5 years. Travels or subsistence expenses will not be reimbursed. The working groups will meet two times per year.

The deadline for the applications is on 15 November 2018.

### Environmental Health

*The Executive Committee approved the EU policy brief for the Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change.*

The brief is drafted by Dr H  l  ne Rossinot, a French Junior Doctor, and reviewed by Dr Martin Balzan, CPME Rapporteur on Environmental Health. The work has been coordinated by the Lancet Countdown. Dr Balzan recommended approving the brief. He will also be co-presenting it at the launch event in Brussels on 5 December 2018.

### CPME statement on Europeanisation\* of basic medical training

*The Executive Committee took note of the draft statement which follows up on the discussions regarding the EDU College of Medicine which took place at the EC meeting on September 2018. It was agreed to present the draft statement to members during the CPME WG on Professional Practice and Board meeting and invite the Maltese delegation who have also raised concerns at this development to share their experience.*

The topic was brought to the attention of the EC by the German Medical Association which reported that the [EDU higher education institutions](#), founded by a German consortium, has gained accreditation from the competent authorities in Malta to offer an online distance-learning degree in medicine. The course is taught online and combined with clinical rotations in a German hospital. Currently the only clinical partner is a German private clinic affiliated to the HELIOS company, but other partners in other Member States are being sought. The accreditation for the two-year Master degree, which would award a full basic medical training degree, has been applied for. EDU references the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) and the Institute for International Medical Education (IIME) as guidance for its curriculum. There is no information if the degree would comply with the Professional Qualifications Directive and hence grant automatic recognition to graduates.

\*On 10 November 2018, the CPME Board decided to give mandate to the Executive Committee to change the title during its December meeting to better reflect the scope of the statement.

### **Refugee health**

*The Executive Committee took note of the [draft policy update](#) which follows up on discussions and data collections in the CPME WG on Refugee Health. It was agreed to add a reference to the Panhellenic Medical Association's work on the topic. It was agreed to present the draft statement to members during both CPME WG and Board meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.*

### **CPME Statement on Vaccine Hesitancy**

*The Executive Committee agreed that the CPME Board will decide about the [draft EMOs' joint statement on Vaccine Hesitancy](#) addressing the issue of anti-vaccination movements and the recent Polish case. The draft included comments from UEMS.*

In October 2018, CPME received a letter from the President of the Polish Supreme Medical Council requesting CPME to address the issue of anti-vaccination movements in a specific statement or declaration, reaffirming the common views of medical practitioners on vaccinations and their importance for public health and individual health of European citizens.

### **Revised CPD consensus statement**

*The Executive Committee was informed that following the last meeting of the presidents of the European Medical Organisations, UEMS was asked to draft a paragraph which will be considered for addition to the [CPD consensus statement](#). The draft text was not yet received, therefore the discussion is postponed.*

### **Defensive medicine**

*The Executive Committee took note of the [scoping document](#) which was prepared to guide the discussions on the continuation of CPME's work on defensive medicine.*

This builds on the decision which was taken at the EC meeting on September 2018, to continue with debate, but substantially revise the existing draft policy. This will be discussed by the CPME WG on Professional Practice on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

### **European Commission 'Better Regulation'**

*The Executive Committee took note of the [CPME consultation](#) response which was drafted in coordination with the president.*

It provides feedback to the Commission on its strategy of stakeholder involvement in particular the technical modalities to consultation and expert group processes. The Executive Committee will be kept informed of any outcomes.

## International calendar

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

## Any other business

*The Executive Committee agreed to send a letter to the [End FGM coalition](#) supporting their campaign against the 'medicalisation' of female genital mutilation.*

This follows a request by End FGM to send a letter in support of a project proposal on this topic.

## Monitoring news

### The Commission published a plan to limit trans fats

On 4 October 2018, the European Commission published a draft Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 as regards trans fat, other than trans fat naturally occurring in animal fat, in foods intended for the final consumer. It proposes a maximum limit of trans fat in food of 2 grams per 100 grams of fat. This is what CPME called for in its recent [policy paper](#). Food which does not comply may continue to be placed on the market until 1 April 2021. The new draft regulation can be downloaded [here](#).

### New report on the Cross-border Healthcare Directive

On 21 September 2018, the European Commission published an [implementation report](#) on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. According to the report, no further European court rulings were needed to ensure these rights since the adoption of the Directive. However, patient mobility and its financial dimensions within the EU remain relatively low and the Directive has not resulted in a major budgetary impact on the sustainability of the national health systems. The report also shows that patients are increasingly aware of their rights under the Directive and how 24 thematic European Reference Networks (ERNs) for rare, complex and rare prevalence diseases have been established, bringing together more than 900 highly specialised healthcare units located in more than 300 hospitals across the EU. Overall, cross-border patient mobility within the EU has slightly increased in the last three years, as citizens have more access to information.

## A Commission communication on the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the areas of pesticides and biocides

On 7 November 2018, the European Commission adopted a Communication, confirming commitment to work on the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the areas of pesticides and biocides. The Communication follows the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme. The EU's approach to endocrine disruptors will remain based on science and application of the precautionary principle, aiming at minimising overall exposure to endocrine disruptors, accelerating research in this area, and promoting active dialogue by organizing a forum on endocrine disruptors.

The Commission, for the first time, will launch a comprehensive screening of the legislation applicable to endocrine disruptors through a Fitness Check, which will involve an assessment of the current legislation on whether it delivers on the objectives of protecting human health and the environment and will also include public consultation. More information can be found [here](#).

## New Policy Briefing on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) has published a policy briefing on the main ways the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) can contribute to public health. Introduced in 1962, CAP is the agricultural policy of the EU, implementing a system of agricultural subsidies and other programmes. The briefing highlights 11 main ways in which the CAP can deliver for better health, highlighting for example AMR, clean air and healthy diets. It is related to the European Commission's legislative proposals on the future of the CAP for the period after 2020, presented in June 2018. Please find the briefing [here](#).

## State of Health in the EU: more protection and prevention for longer and healthier lives

The 2018 [Health at a Glance: Europe](#) joint report of the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that the steady increase of life expectancy has slowed down and that large gaps across and within countries persist, notably leaving people with a low level of education by the wayside. This report is based upon comparative analyses of the health status of EU citizens and the performance of the health systems in the 28 Member States, 5 candidate countries and 3 EFTA countries.

## A roadmap on the European Commission initiative to establish a Format for a European Electronic Health Record (EHR) Exchange is now opened for a feedback

Following its plan of action outlined in [the Communication](#) in April 2018, the Commission will adopt a recommendation on the interoperability of health records to facilitate cross-border safe access and sharing

of health data from different records across the EU, by citizens, health professionals or other authorised parties. 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. Feedback deadline: 20 December 2018. The roadmap can be consulted [here](#).

## The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), wine and health

In November 2018, CPME sent a [joint letter to MEP Biljana Borzan](#) on wine labelling under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The letter highlighted that wine and all other alcoholic beverages should be included in the EU Regulation No 1169/2011, and not in the Regulation No 1308/2013 on the common organisation of markets in agricultural products. Moreover, CPME sent a [joint letter to MEP Esther Herranz García](#) expressing concern about her proposal to remove reference to “health” from the CAP specific objectives.

## The first annual meeting of EU-JAMRAI and Stakeholder Forum were held on 8 and 9 November 2018 in Vienna

On 8 November, the European Commission, policymakers and partnering organizations from 27 countries met in Vienna for the first General Assembly of the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI) to present the results achieved after one year of implementation, discuss ways to reduce the burden of AMR and continue fostering synergies to keep antibiotics working. The meeting included a Stakeholder Forum, Roundtable 2 on ‘Training and education: enabling all healthcare professionals to tackle AMR and prevent HCAs’ where key international organizations which provided recommendations based on their experience. For more information please consult the [official press release](#) and the [report](#).





### Call to action on improving patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health

In June 2018, the CPME Executive Committee decided to endorse the GAMIAN-Europe's (Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks-Europe) call to action on improving patient empowerment and self-management of care in mental health. It aims to highlight the urgent need to stimulate the empowerment of those affected by mental ill-health and to recognise the vital role persons affected by mental ill-health can play in the management of their treatment and care, in partnership with health professionals and other care providers. The document is now [online](#).

### SCiE Publication on the Future of Self-Care

CPME is an observer member in the Self-Care Initiative Europe (SCiE), a cross-border network working to promote self-care. As part of the Self-Care Week Europe, which took place on 12-18 November 2018, the network published an e-book entitled "[The Future of Self-Care in Europe](#)". This publication gathers 26 contributions from European organisations, thinkers and experts, with forewords by Martin Seychell, DG SANTE Deputy Director General, and Astrid Krag, former Danish Minister of Health. Please find the article of Dr Jacques de Haller, CPME President, on pages 68-70.

### CPME briefing for EU policymakers on climate change

CPME has collaborated with the Lancet Countdown research network and published a [Briefing for EU Policymakers](#) on climate change. It provides seven take-home messages and recommendations, including the development of national action plans for climate, health and wellbeing by EU Member States, the inclusion of climate change and health in the medical curriculum and consistent, pro-active communication by health bodies on links between climate change and health. CPME is strongly encouraging its member associations, and individual physicians to continue to bring home this message for action to their national authorities in the best interest of the health and quality of life of their patients.

### Recent publications on the CPME website

Members' section:

- **Report:** [Report on EU-JAMRAI Conference, 8/9 November 2018, Vienna](#)
- **Report:** [Internal auditor report, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)
- **Report:** [Panhellenic Medical Association national report, Ioannis Capodistrias, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)

- Report: [UEMO activity report, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)
- Report: [CEOM activity report, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)
- Report: [Presentation on Kosovo\\* Doctors Chamber, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu, 10 November 2018](#)
- Report: [Brexit Update, Geneva, 9-10 November 2018](#)
- Report: [European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing \(EIPAHA\) Meeting of the B3 Action Group on Integrated Care, Brussels, 14 November 2018](#)
- **CPME Members' Conference on Healthcare in Danger:** [Presentation on foreseeable consequences of severe nuclear accident by Dr. med. Claudio Knüsli, Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)
- **CPME Members' Conference on Healthcare in Danger:** [Article on strategy of secondary prevention after a nuclear accident by Walter, Fernex and Knüsli](#)
- **CPME Members' Conference on Healthcare in Danger:** [Presentation on rethinking "danger" in healthcare: experiences from Turkey by Dr M. Murat Civaner, Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)
- **CPME Members' Conference on Healthcare in Danger:** [Presentation on World Medical Association's involvement in healthcare in conflict settings by Prof. Leonid Eidelman, Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)
- **CPME Members' Conference on Healthcare in Danger:** [Presentation on the Health Care in Danger \(HCiD\) Initiative by the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, Dr Erin Downey, Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)
- CPME Elections: [Nomination speech by Dr Ole Johan Bakke, Norwegian Medical Association, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)
- CPME Elections: [CPME GA Executive Committee's voting results, Geneva, 10 November 2018](#)
- CPME Statement: [Concerning the integration of refugee doctors into the European workforce](#)

CPME News section:

- CPME Newsletter: [issue 27, October 2018](#)
- Press release: [CPME condemns the Turkish draft bill on banning doctors from working, 08 November 2018](#)
- Press release: [CPME elected the new Executive Committee for 2019 – 2021, 10 November 2018](#)
- Press release: [CPME Statement concerning the integration of refugee doctors into the European workforce, 10 November 2018](#)
- Press release: [Outcomes of the CPME meetings on 10 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- CPME response to public consultation: [Stocktaking of the Commission's 'better regulation' approach, adopted 9 November 2018](#)
- CPME Policy: [Alcohol Labelling, adopted 10 November 2018](#)