



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*



**February 2019**

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*Dear CPME members,*

*We are pleased to share with you our latest edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the Executive Committee outcomes from the web-meeting held on 14 February 2019.*

*The CPME Executive Committee agenda included, amongst others, the activities of the DG SANTE Expert Panel on Task Shifting and a joint letter to the EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health.*

*Furthermore, we kindly invite you to register to the upcoming CPME General Assembly and Board meetings, which will take place in Valletta (Malta) on 5-6 April 2019. Please, find the online registration [here](#).*

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

*Kind regards,*

*Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery  
CPME President*

## Contents

<b>Executive Committee meeting - 21 February 2019</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Internal affairs.....	3
Finance.....	3
Policies .....	3
International calendar.....	4
Any other business.....	4
<b>Monitoring news</b> .....	<b>5</b>
PACE project on improving access to holistic palliative care in long-term care facilities for older people .....	5
The European Commission’s Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) on emerging health and environmental risks.....	5
Cohesion Policy after 2020: preparing the future of EU investments in health .....	5
European Guidelines for Adult Obesity Management in Primary Care.....	6
CPME Healthy Lifestyles Survey Results Online .....	6
ECDC/EFSa report "rings alarm bells", says EU Commissioner .....	6
<b>CPME news and publications</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Finnish Presidency of the EU to focus on HTA, economics of well-being, social determinants of health, access to medicines, HTA.....	7
Recent publications on the CPME website .....	8

### Internal affairs

#### Draft agendas Board and GA, Valletta 5-6 April 2019

*The Executive Committee took note of the draft agendas which will be sent to the CPME members three weeks ahead of the CPME meetings in Valletta (Malta).*

### Finance

#### Draft final accounts 2018

*The Executive Committee took note of the draft final account 2018.*

It was explained that the costs of the CPME General Assembly and Board meetings in 2018 were higher than in the past, because of Geneva being a high cost venue. However, at the same time, reimbursements were also higher.

Moreover, the Executive Committee was informed that the external and internal auditors will probably revise the draft final accounts 2018. The documents will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in Valletta (Malta).

### Policies

#### EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health

*The Executive Committee decided to cosign a joint letter to the EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health expressing concerns about the lack of progress achieved by the Platform.*

CPME is one of the founding members in the [EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health](#), which was created by the European Commission in 2005. The Platform gathers food business operators, consumer organisations, public health NGOs and scientific and professional associations committing to take actions to fight obesity through healthy diets and physical activity.

The European Public Health Alliance ([EPHA](#)), the European Heart Network ([EHN](#)) and the European Consumer Organisation ([BEUC](#)) wish to send a letter emphasising the fact that the platform is no longer fit for purpose and that an overhaul of the platform structure and objectives is needed. The letter also criticises the reduction of the annual plenary meetings from five to two. In general, the NGOs are concerned that EU-level action to address overweight, obesity and NCDs seems to be diminishing.

#### EFPIA consolidated Code

*The Executive Committee took note of the consolidated code of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations ([EFPIA](#)).*

Between 2016 and 2018, CPME and EFPIA collaborated on the revision of [2005 joint declaration on the cooperation between the medical profession and the pharma industry](#). Nevertheless, given our diverging opinions on the sensitive issue of CPD events to be accredited, the CPME Board decided to suspend the discussion on the joint declaration.

In the meantime, CPME was informed that EFPIA is currently working on a consolidated version of its code, which will replace its existing codes ([HCP code on the promotion of prescription-only medicines](#), [Patient](#)

[organisations code of practice and Disclosure code](#)). EFPIA Ethics & Compliance Committee members worked on the consolidation of these three EFPIA Codes with the aims of removing redundant provisions, improving some wording, clarifying a few concepts, and aligning some provisions with the international code of the pharma industry.

### **DG SANTE Expert panel opinion on task-shifting**

*The Executive Committee took note of the letter sent to Prof. De Maeseneer, Chair of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health, to ask if there are opportunities for CPME to contribute to the drafting process on task-shifting, beyond the usual public hearings and consultations. In case of such involvement, the new CPME Rapporteur on skill mix could support this activity.*

In 2013 DG SANTE appointed an ‘Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health’ ([EXPH](#)). This panel consists of mainly academic experts who are nominated in their personal capacity to draft explorative studies (so-called ‘Opinions’) on specific questions which DG SANTE mandates. As part of the process there are public hearings and consultations on the opinions, in which CPME has participated in the past. The final opinions are purely informative, i.e. they are not legally binding or indeed a formal part of any policy process.

Most recently, DG SANTE has published a mandate for research on ‘Task shifting’ in healthcare systems’. The opinion, which refers to the term ‘task shifting’ in quotation marks, shall look into different categories of tasks and their relative suitability to be ‘shifted’, as well as the contextual factors (e.g. legislation, payment systems, stakeholder opinions) which have an impact on such reforms. Lastly it should also research the impact of task shifting on the effectiveness of healthcare, with the help of an evaluation framework.

### **Collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics/Conference**

*On 10 January 2019, the Executive Committee decided to become an official “sponsor” of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics world conferences according to the draft concept of collaboration. However, the EC declined the invitation by the UNESCO Chair to organise one entire day.*

CPME was asked by Prof. Amnon Carmi (UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, University of Haifa) to consider a more sustainable cooperation by “sponsoring” (not with money) the world conferences. The world conference might be a valuable platform to ‘test’ CPME policies as done with the recent policy on refugee health in November 2018.

### **International calendar**

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

### **Any other business**

*The Executive Committee took note of the request by [Milieu](#) to contribute to a study on the 'Implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive' and decided that participation in this project will be declined.*

CPME was contacted by the consultancy Milieu who have been commissioned by the European Parliament to carry out a study on the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive. They are requesting the

input from CPME (and that of the European pharmacists, nurses and dentists) with the help of an extensive questionnaire which is considered to be biased and to lack methodology.

## Monitoring news

### PACE project on improving access to holistic palliative care in long-term care facilities for older people

[PACE](#) project (2014-2019) performs comparative effectiveness research concerning palliative care in long term care facilities in Europe. The aim of the project is to generate evidence on the best ways to deliver effective palliative care that can improve policymaking in this field.

The final workshop in Brussels included group discussions on how to use PACE outcomes and how to advance access to palliative care for older people at all levels. PACE presented [Policy Recommendations](#), which were drafted together with Alzheimer Europe through a process of consultations with their respective members over the past years. You can find more information [here](#).

### The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) on emerging health and environmental risks

The [SCHEER statement on emerging health and environmental issues](#) draws the Commission Services' attention to 14 emerging issues in the non-food area that Committee members have identified as having a potential impact on human health and/or the environment in the future.

Among the risks identified is the increase of pharmaceuticals and illicit drug loads in wastewater as a result of rise in the use of drugs, aging population and fly tipping of waste from illegal drug manufacturing sites. The [position paper on emerging issues and the role of the SCHEER](#) describes the methodology how SCHEER draws the attention of the European Commission services to emerging issues in the non-food area.

### Cohesion Policy after 2020: preparing the future of EU investments in health

On 19<sup>th</sup> of February, Commissioners Crețu and Andriukaitis have brought together health professionals to kick-start the reflection on future EU investments in health under the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programmes. In the context of a roundtable held at the Commission with health associations such as European Health Management Association and EuroHealthNet, the Commissioners launched a pilot project to improve cross-border emergency services in the Pyrenees between the border regions of France, Spain and the Principality of Andorra.

They also announced that health will be this year's new category for the [RegioStars Awards](#). In the 2014-2020 programming period, over €8 billion of Cohesion Policy funds, including a €4 billion EU co-financing, has been invested in health. Press release and factsheet are available [here](#).

## European Guidelines for Adult Obesity Management in Primary Care

The European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) recently published "[European Practical and Patient-Centred Guidelines for Adult Obesity Management in Primary Care](#)" aiming to provide obesity management guidelines specifically tailored to GPs, favouring a practical patient-centred approach. The focus is on GP communication and motivational interviewing as well as on therapeutic patient education. The new guidelines highlight the importance of avoiding stigmatisation, something frequently seen in different health care settings.

## CPME Healthy Lifestyles Survey Results Online

As its 2016-2018 commitment to the [EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health](#), CPME carried out a survey among its member organisations to map what kind of guidelines they and their national governments have produced on the promotion of healthy lifestyles, particularly in primary care. An overview of the survey results is now [online](#). National medical associations are encouraged to inform about any updates in the field. All in all, the results show that most of the CPME members are involved in various ways in promoting healthy lifestyles. Moreover, governments have set various strategies to address the issue in many European countries.

## ECDC/EFSA report "rings alarm bells", says EU Commissioner

Antimicrobial resistance shows no signs of slowing down. Data released today by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on 26 February 2019, reveal that antimicrobials used to treat diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans, such as campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis, are becoming less effective. Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: "The report should ring again alarm bells. It shows that we are entering into a world where more and more common infections become difficult or even sometimes impossible to treat. However, ambitious national policies in some countries limiting antimicrobial use have led to a decrease of antimicrobial resistance. So before the alarm bells become a deafening siren, let's make sure that we increasingly act all together, in every country and across the public health, animal health and environment sectors under the One Health approach umbrella."

### Finnish Presidency of the EU to focus on HTA, economics of well-being, social determinants of health, access to medicines, HTA

On 19 February, the CPME Secretariat met with the health attaché of the Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU to discuss the health policy priorities of the forthcoming presidency starting 1 July 2019. Please find below an overview of the planning:

The Finnish presidency will pursue the discussions on the **HTA file**. They plan to come back on the most political/controversial question regarding the mandatory component of the regulation (which is currently left aside by the Romanian presidency). The presidency intends to meet bilaterally with other Member States to get an overview of the situation. It was acknowledged that hopes to solve this problem are currently limited given the position of a number of Member States. If the position of Member States does not evolve, a general discussion around the future of HTA cooperation – in absence of a legally binding instrument – will probably be needed.

One of the presidency's priorities will be a discussion on the **economy of well-being**. This will be framed as a holistic analysis of the impact of health and healthcare on growth. The topic will take a comprehensive approach which includes all sectors contributing social determinants of the health. The presidency will organise a conference on 18-19 September. The discussion should be processed into Council Conclusions, for adoption at the EPSCO Council in October 2019. These may also call for a Commission Communication as a next step.

The Finnish presidency will address the topic of **mental health** at work. This will link to a broader concept of future of work.

Also **health security** will be addressed. Finland will continue the Romanian presidency's work to increase the coverage of **vaccination** in the EU.

There will also be continued action on **nutrition** which the previous presidencies have already highlighted. This will be linked to the main topic of economy of well-being.

The discussions on **access to medicines** will be pursued with a more specific focus on how to generate proper evidence. The use of real-world data, collected notably through registries, will be of particular interest under the Finnish presidency. A ministerial conference on this issue will take place in Finland on 26-27 September.

The presidency will also look into the **EU's role in global health**. It is felt that the EU could improve its standing as an advocate for health at international level and contribute better to processes such as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus will be on mechanisms of cooperation between EU Member States and with international organisations such as WHO Geneva rather than substantive policies. It is hoped that future presidencies continue the discussion.

In July, there will be a conference on silver economy addressing **(active and healthy) ageing**.

The Finnish presidency will also advocate for having **DG SANTE maintained under the next Commission**. They consider that the dilution of health dossiers across different DGs would be a negative signal and detrimental to the 'health in all policies' principle.

## Recent publications on the CPME website

Members' section:

[CPME priorities – Public Health and Disease Prevention](#)

[CPME priorities – eHealth](#)

[CPME priorities – Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Products](#)

[CPME priorities – Professional Practice and Patients' Rights](#)

[CPME priorities – EU political outlook](#)

[Draft Minutes of CPME Board meeting, Geneva, 10 November 2019](#)

[Draft Minutes of CPME General Assembly, Geneva, 10 November 2019](#)

[CPME Monthly Bulletin – January 2019](#)

[Draft report from stakeholder pool meeting of the HTA network, 16 January 2019, Brussels](#)

[Report on Vaccination Challenges in the EU, 19 November, 2018](#)

[CPME Working Group on eHealth – DRAFT minutes of the WG meeting in Brussels, 24 November 2017](#)

[CPME Working Group on Pharmaceuticals – DRAFT minutes of the WG meeting in Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)

[SFP Coalition Letter to the Commissioner Moscovici on Tobacco Taxation](#)

[SFP Coaliton Letter to Dutch Minister of Health on National Prevention Agreement](#)

[PGEU press release: European community pharmacists 2030 Vision Paper](#)

[CPME Survey on National Guidelines for Doctors Addressing Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles in Primary Care](#)

[CPME Working Group on Professional Practice – DRAFT Minutes of the WG meeting in Geneva, 9 November 2018](#)

CPME News section:

[Dentists, Doctors and Veterinarians call for true One Health collaboration starting from university](#)

[CPME response to public consultation on how the EMA engages with medicine developers before they apply for authorisations to market their medicines in the EU](#)

[Welcome to the 28th edition of the CPME newsletter!](#)

[CPME towards the European Elections 2019](#)

[Joint Statement on the Implementation of the new Medical Device Regulations](#)

[Brexit: the Impact on Healthcare Services in the EU27](#)