



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*

June 2018

Dear CPME members,

We are pleased to share with you the latest issue of the CPME Monthly Bulletin which follows the Executive Committee meeting held on 21 June 2018.

The CPME Executive Committee agenda included, amongst others, a discussion on the CPME draft manifesto for the upcoming European elections in May 2019, and the endorsement of the GAMIAN-Europe's call to action.

Furthermore, we take the opportunity to renew our invitation to join the the expert network on health workforce planning and forecasting. In September 2017, a three-year term joint tender was launched with the aim to implement and activate a health workforce planning and forecasting expert network. Joining this network will give you access to a hub for the exchange of expertise, good practices and knowledge sharing, which every expert can both contribute to and benefit from on a voluntary basis. Please find further details and the registration form [here](#).

We hope the bulletin is informative and we invite you to consult our [latest news](#). All recent publications on CPME website are separately listed at the end of this Bulletin.

Kind regards,

Dr Jacques de Haller  
CPME President

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## Executive Committee meeting

### Finance

*The Executive Committee took note of the draft current account 2018. With respect to the first quarter of the year, all budget positions are in line with the overall 2018 budget. Moreover a discussion took place whether the CPME should consider decreasing observership fees for new applicants coming from not affluent regions in Europe. The majority of the EC was of the opinion to not lower the fees for new members wishing to join. This situation should be differentiated from existing observer members facing temporary financial difficulties.*

*The EC also considered current travel costs of officers, CPME representatives and staff members spent during the first quarter of the year. All positions are in line with the overall planning for 2018.*

*Furthermore, the EC approved the staff budget planning 2019.*

### Internal affairs

#### Feedback from Ambassadorship lunch

*Considering the feedback from the Ambassadorship lunch held on 14 April 2018 on the occasion of the CPME General Assembly and Board meeting, the EC members decided that further ambassadorship lunches will be organised when the need arises.*

#### CPME 60 years anniversary planning 2019

*The Executive Committee discussed the CPME 60 years anniversary which will be celebrated next year in November. The Secretariat was asked to define a planning to be discussed in the coming months.*

#### CPME Manifesto elections 2019

*The Executive Committee discussed a CPME draft manifesto, as part of the communication and lobbying strategy for the upcoming European elections, in May 2019. A revised draft will be presented to the EC.*

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.

Following the new political developments and in preparation of the next EU elections in 2019, CPME is drafting a new manifesto, reflecting current policy priorities.

#### Brexit and membership in CPME

*The Executive Committee was presented with a further statutory option regarding the possible after-Brexit membership in CPME of the British Medical Association, and more generally about membership of Medical Associations from non-member countries. The EC decided to wait for future political developments before presenting specific proposals to CPME members.*

## Policies

### SCiE Self-care Initiative Europe

*The Executive Committee decided to join the initiative as an observer and to endorse the [SCiE manifesto](#). The EC considered it useful for CPME to follow the debate on self-care and reviewed the various available levels of engagement 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 manifesto presents the main framework of SCiE policy positions 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. In the beginning of the initiative, a number of industry operators were listed as interested parties, but none of them has joined so far.

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

*The Executive Committee decided to endorse the [GAMIAN call to action](#) as the content was considered sound and not giving any indication of industry influence.*

Following a previous EC decision, CPME had contributed to the drafting process at earlier stages. Given the significant degree of industry financing for GAMIAN, the Executive Committee critically discussed whether the initiative could be supported, and found that this was the case.

### Conflict of Interest Guidelines for the MEP Offices

*The Executive Committee decided not to endorse the conflict of interest guidelines developed by the [Swedish sobriety organization IOGT-NTO](#).*

The intention of these guidelines is to raise awareness among MEPs and particularly their staff for potential conflicts of interest when interacting with the commercial industry in health policy making. EC members were of the opinion that the tone used is not appropriate. It was considered more appropriate to continue promoting the CPME policies, e.g. through the manifesto.

### Falsified medicines

*Given the controversial nature of the online sale of medicines, the Executive Committee decided not to support [ASOP EU's](#) activities since online sales and dissemination of medicines is considered highly controversial in many countries.*

Nevertheless, the efforts made by ASOP EU to fight against falsified medicines were acknowledged and welcomed.

### HTA legislative proposal

*The Executive Committee took note of the state-of-play of EU discussions on the HTA legislative proposal in the Council and Parliament.*

After 3 successive joint actions on HTA (entitled EUnetHTA), the Commission decided to present a legislative proposal on HTA in January 2018. This proposal aims at establishing a sustainable framework for EU cooperation on HTA, whereby all Member States will have to perform joint clinical assessments for certain medicines and medical devices. The assessment of non-clinical domains will remain a Member States' prerogative, even if a voluntary cooperation at EU level is also foreseen. The CPME statement on HTA legislative proposal was adopted in April 2018. In its statement, CPME invites co-legislators to further specify the clinical assessment procedure

and to strengthen the rules on independence and transparency as well as the involvement of healthcare professionals in the overall framework.

## International calendar

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

## Monitoring news

### Member States agree on reform recommendations: health, social determinants, and professions are included

Following the annual cycle of macroeconomic analysis (see CPME members' briefing [CPME 2016/076](#)), the Council has agreed on the [draft country-specific recommendations](#) for reforms to regulation and financing of public policies. These include health, healthcare, professional regulation and social determinants of health. For Bulgaria for example, it is recommended to continue to improve access to healthcare, reduce out-of-pocket spending on health and address health workforce shortages. For Germany, the need to improve the internet infrastructure is mentioned in the context of the roll-out of eHealth applications. The recommendations for Romania include the continuation of reforms to improve access to healthcare by moving towards more outpatient care. A more detailed analysis of all relevant recommendations will follow. In a next step the Member States' heads of state and government will endorse the recommendations during the European Council later this week.

### European Commission looking into advertising rules for doctors

DG SANTE is researching national rules on advertising restrictions across health care professions. It seems that DG SANTE was asked to provide input to other Commission services activities. According to our information, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies was commissioned to map the situation by the Commission. While the context is not clear, the request is of interest with a view to the new Proportionality Directive. **Please get in touch with us should you be contacted by your ministry on this matter.** For your background information, in the case [C-339/15](#) a Brussels Court referred the question to the European Court of Justice whether Belgian legislation imposing **a general and absolute prohibition** of any advertising relating to the provision of oral and dental care services (including electronic communications) is in line with EU law. The court considered this Belgian law as disproportionate. National legislation on advertising health care professions' services should comply with this ruling.

### Health ministers discussed the HTA legislative proposal and the future of Health

During the [EPSCO Council](#) on 22 June 2018, Health ministers exchanged views on the future of Health in the EU as well as on the HTA legislative proposal and on the healthy nutrition for children.

On HTA file, the Bulgarian presidency produced a [preparatory note](#) which summarised the main concerns expressed by Member States (incl. on the choice of the legal basis, the proportionality of the proposal, the mismatch between the retained option and countries' preference during the consultation as well as the

difficulty to draw a line between clinical and non-clinical domains) and invited the Council to provide direction and guidance, including on possible alternative ways of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the EU cooperation. In general, all Health ministers supported further discussion in the Council on the future EU cooperation on HTA. Whereas Health ministers valued the strengthening of EU cooperation on HTA, a significant number of Member States (incl. Germany, France, Denmark, Check Republic, Poland, UK and Spain) clearly opposed the mandatory approach proposed by the Commission. Other countries - such as Italy and the Netherlands- also expressed concerns on the mandatory aspects of the proposal. Germany already indicated that they will work on an alternative proposal with France and any other interested country. The upcoming Presidency – which is Austria – plans to dedicate a significant number of meetings on this topic. After this controversial discussion, Health ministers were invited to discuss about the future of Health in the EU. Once again, all Health ministers considered important to pursue EU cooperation on health policies and several areas were mentioned as providing clear added value for Member States. The most commonly cited examples were: cross-border treatments and health security, antimicrobial resistance and vaccination, prevention and health promotion (incl. healthy nutrition, tobacco and alcohol policies), European reference networks and eHealth as well as research and innovation. At the same time, the need to respect subsidiarity was emphasized by several Member States. Several Health ministers welcomed the inclusion of Health under the social programme (ESF+) but requested some clarifications regarding its governance and the possibility for Member States to have a say on the effective allocation of resources. The public session of the EPSCO Council meeting can be followed [here](#).

## **New regulation on veterinary medicines tackles antimicrobial resistance**

In 2014, the Commission proposed a legislative initiative on veterinary medicines. After four years of negotiations, an agreement was found between the EU Council and the Parliament on this new piece of regulation. In addition to addressing the issues of the availability of medicines and competitiveness of the veterinary sector, the new regulation addresses the issue of antimicrobial resistance with a set of measures: a) limiting the use of antibiotics for animals both in the case of prophylaxis and metaphylaxis; b) set aside certain critical antimicrobials for the treatment of certain infections in humans in order to preserve their effectiveness and c) imposing the same obligations to third country operators with regard to the ban on antibiotics for growth promotion and the restriction on antimicrobials reserved for use in humans. More information can be found [here](#).

## **Next EU budget: Several financial tools are expected to contain a health dimension**

After the publication of the Commission’s proposal for the next EU Budget ([MFF 2021-2027](#)), the Commission released its proposals for the different funding instruments in June 2018. Whereas the MFF proposal does not contain a dedicated Health Programme, it allocates health under the chapter ‘investing in people, social cohesion and European values’. The main funding instruments for health policies will therefore be the “[European Social Fund + programme](#)”. The Commission’s proposal for the ESF+ programme specifically includes € 413 million for the [Health strand](#) (which means a 8% decrease in comparison with the current Health programme). The Commission already indicated that other financial instruments will have a strong health component, especially the programmes on digitalisation ([Digital Europe](#)) and research ([Horizon Europe](#)). The programme [Digital Europe](#) will focus on 5 key areas which are: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and trust, advanced digital skills and ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the society. For its part, the programme [Horizon Europe](#) will be articulated around 3 pillars: open science, global challenges and industrial competitiveness (which contains a particular cluster on health) as well as open innovation. More information can be found [here](#).

## Council Conclusions on healthy nutrition for children

On 22 June 2018, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on 'Healthy nutrition for children: The healthy future of Europe'. The topic has been a priority for the Bulgarian EU Presidency throughout its term. The conclusions focus on the promotion of healthier diets for children as one of the best investments for a young European generation in good health. They invite the EU Member States to continue to develop and implement targeted policies dealing with NCDs, based on a holistic health-in-all-policies approach and multi-sectoral cooperation. Moreover, they invite the European Commission to continue prioritising public health, in particular by addressing issues of cross-border importance, such as marketing of food to children, food product improvement, labelling, market concentration in the food supply chain, and research projects responding to public health needs. Please find the Conclusions [here](#).

## Centre for Empowering Patients and Communities (CEmPaC)

In October 2017, the CPME Executive Committee decided to support the European Health Futures Forum's (EHFF) project to establish a virtual centre for patient empowerment and self-management across Europe. This virtual centre will support patients and NGOs, health care providers, insurers and government agencies in the design, implementation and evaluation of patient empowerment approaches. In March, the inaugural board meeting took place in Dublin where CPME was represented by Dr Katrín Fjeldsted. In total, there will be four board meetings over the three year period of the project. Now, the CEmPaC project is also online, and you can find the website [here](#).

## New publication on actions funded under health programmes

CHAFEA, the Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency of the European Commission, has published a [HEALTH THREATS 2009-2018](#) booklet on EU-funded actions for better preparedness and coordination in health crisis. This publication presents several projects funded under health programmes that have helped to improve health security in the EU. The main purpose of these activities is to implement the EU Decision on Serious Cross-border Health Threats to Health ([1082/2013/EU](#)). CHAFEA has also created an [online project database](#) to present actions funded by the health programmes.

## CPME news and publications

### Join the expert network on health workforce planning and forecasting

We cordially invite you to join the expert network and to participate in the webinar launch event which will take place on 11 July 2018 at 11h00.

As highlighted during the CPME meetings in April, a three-year term joint tender entitled 'Support for the health workforce planning and forecasting expert network' was launched in September 2017 with the aim to implement and activate a health workforce planning and forecasting expert network. The joint tender aims to identify and solve real-life problems in workforce planning processes, by bringing experts together with those who are seeking to build expertise.

Joining the network will give you access to a hub for the exchange of expertise, good practices and knowledge sharing, which every expert can both contribute to and benefit from on a voluntary basis.

Doctors play a crucial role in workforce planning by highlight the medical professions' views on the priorities and objective health workforce planning and forecasting should tackle. We therefore hope to see a strong representation of NMAs in the expert network.

Please find further details and the registration form [here](#). We would also be delighted if you shared this with colleagues in your delegation or other national experts specialised in the topic. Please also find regular updates on the project website [www.healthworkforce.eu](http://www.healthworkforce.eu).

## Recent publications on the CPME website

### From CPME News section:

- [BMA urges clarity for health profession in wake of Brexit](#)
- [European Medical Organisations stress the importance of the central role of medical doctors in the diagnosis, treatment, and coordination of multidisciplinary care](#)
- [CPME Newsletter – Issue 26, June 2018](#)
- [CPME is hiring an EU Policy Intern](#)

### From Members' section:

- [Draft Commission implementing Regulation on reprocessing of single use medical devices](#)
- [Report on ESI Funds for Health workshop on health workforce, Sofia, 17 May 2018](#)
- [Report on event 'Keeping Europe Healthy: Brexit and the European Medical Profession', European Parliament, 23 May 2018](#)
- [Speech of Mr Vincianus – Presidents' Roundtable 13.04.2018](#)
- [Report on the EIPAHA B3 Action Group Meeting on Integrated Care, Brussels 16 May 2018](#)
- [Report on Tackling digestive diseases for better quality of life, Brussels May 2018](#)
- [Report on Antimicrobial Resistance: from vision to action, Brussels May 2018](#)
- [Report on Empowerment of patients affected by mental health conditions and their self-management of care and treatment, Brussels May 2018](#)
- [Report on the EASO Policy Conference, Obesity Policy in Europe: the need for Education, Treatment and Care, Brussels, May 2018](#)
- [Draft report by MEP Soledad Cabezon Ruiz on the HTA legislative proposal – May 2018](#)
- [Report on Therapeutic adherence: value the impact for patients and healthcare systems, Brussels, May 2018](#)
- [CEN Technical Board decision to disband CEN Focus Group on Healthcare Services \(HSFG\)](#)
- [Report on the Meeting of the EU platform for action on diet, physical activity and health – Luxembourg, 1 June 2018](#)
- [Report on the meetings on alcohol labelling with Commissioner Andriukaitis and MEPs Dorfmann and Sommer – Brussels, 14 & 16 May 2018](#)
- [Report on the ESI Funds for Health: Health Promotion Workshop – Zagreb, 15 June 2018](#)
- [Report on the Preparatory Meeting for the European Alcohol and Health Forum – Luxembourg, 4 June 2018](#)
- [Report on the European Commission meeting on front-of-pack nutrition labelling – Brussels, 22 June 2018](#)
- [Report on the HEAL Event on Climate Change and Doctors – Brussels, 27 June 2018](#)