



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!



September 2018

*Dear CPME members,
Dear friends,*

We are glad to present you the latest edition of our Monthly bulletin.

If you have not done so already, we kindly invite you to register to the CPME meetings using this [link](#). A brief overview with the timeline of the General meetings can be found at the end of this bulletin.

Moreover, we would like to remind you about the upcoming elections at the General Assembly. Please note that the nominations of the Board members have to be submitted at least three weeks before the General Assembly. If there is no nomination for a board member, the existing board member is the nominee, failing this, the head of delegation. You can find further information in the Election Manual available [here](#).

In this Bulletin edition, you will be informed about the main decisions taken by the members of the CPME Executive Committee on 6 September 2018. Among other items, the Executive Committee discussed the CPME Health Check for the European elections 2019 and set the Executive Committee meeting calendar 2019.

We hope the bulletin is informative and we invite you to consult our [latest news](#) and the members' section of our website. Please, don't hesitate to contact us directly if you have any comments, questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

*Dr Jacques de Haller
CPME President*

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Executive Committee meeting

Finance

The Executive Committee members reviewed the current accounts and the travel costs spent. Also, they were presented the draft budget 2019. The Executive Committee recommends to the General Assembly to adopt the draft budget 2019.

Internal affairs

Board and GA draft agendas

The Executive Committee reviewed the Board and GA draft agendas. The draft agendas are available [here](#).

Externals attending GA and Board meetings

The Executive Committee agreed to admit an official of the Swiss Ministry of Health to the General Assembly meeting on the 10th of November 2018.

EC Meeting dates 2019

The Executive Committee discussed and approved the EC meeting calendar 2019. Please see below the calendar.

Month	Modality	Date	Venue
January	Face-to-face	10.01.2019	Brussels
February	Web	21.02.2019	
March	Face to face	14.03.2019	Brussels
April	Face-to-face Afternoon 2pm	04.04.2019 GA	Valletta, Malta
May	web	23.05.2019	
June	Face-to-face	20.06.2019	Brussels
July	Web	18.07.2019	
August	—	—	
September	Face-to-face	12.09.2019	Brussels
October	Web	10.10.2019	
November	Face-to-face Afternoon 2pm	14.11.2019 GA	Helsinki, Finland
December	Web	12.12.2019	

CPME Health Check for the European elections 2019

The Executive Committee took note of the draft CPME Health Check for the European elections 2019. This is a document which will be used to promote the CPME policy priorities towards the MEPs of the future European Parliament. Its draft will be sent to the members.

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.

Brexit and BMA membership in CPME

The Executive Committee discussed another legal option to ensure the BMA's continued CPME membership after Brexit, i.e. simply doing nothing. It was agreed that any decision will be taken only after the Brexit.

A law firm was asked whether the CPME Statutes may be interpreted in that full membership of the BMA is ongoing despite Brexit since CPME doesn't have any provision on automatic exclusion. This was confirmed. Nevertheless, the law firm strongly advises CPME against this option and advises continuing with option 2 (new membership category: "former member of the EU"). The option of redefining the different member categories was also discussed, but proved to be very complex.

CPME meeting dates for 2020

The Executive Committee was requested to review dates for the CPME meetings in 2020, in particular the November meetings. It was agreed that a date in the second half of November should be sought.

Policies

Brexit and the mutual recognition of professional qualifications

The Executive Committee decided to co-sign an amended draft letter prepared by the British Medical Association on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications after Brexit. The letter is to be endorsed by national professional organisations and their EU-level counterparts.

CPME was contacted by the BMA to co-sign this letter which is intended to be a joint statement of the British and EU-level representative organisations of professions, including veterinarians, dentists and architects, calling on the UK and the EU to protect the mutual recognition of qualifications during Brexit.

Environmental Health

The Executive Committee accepted the invitation of the [Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#) to contribute to this year's [Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change](#) by drafting a policy brief. The article will be drafted by a French Junior Doctor and reviewed by Dr Martin Balzan, CPME Rapporteur on Environmental Health.

CPME is collaborating with the [Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#) in Brussels on environmental health issues. The Lancet Countdown is an international research collaboration, dedicated to tracking the world's response to climate change, and the health benefits that emerge from this transition.

HEAL has also invited CPME to their potential health sector delegation at the [COP24](#) (Conference of the Parties), the next UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. CPME is currently identifying a CPME member who would participate in this conference.

Manifesto on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

Following the recommendations of Prof. Dr Gelu Onose, CPME Rapporteur on Chronic Conditions Management, the Executive Committee endorsed the Manifesto on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management issued by the [European Chronic Disease Alliance \(ECDA\)](#).

In May 2018, the [ECDA](#) and several MEPs launched the manifesto calling on the European Commission to keep health and chronic diseases high on the political agenda, with greater EU investment in chronic disease prevention and management in the next Commission's Strategy 2019-2024. The manifesto addresses the [United Nations High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases \(NCDs\) in September 2018](#), where

governments will review progress on chronic diseases in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Pharmaceutical compounding

The Executive Committee decided to not take part in the drafting of a joint position paper on pharmaceutical compounding together with the pharmaceutical industry but to monitor the topic. It was acknowledged that a manufactured drug should be preferred when available on the market and that concerns around the quality of pharmacy preparations are legitimate in certain cases.

In July 2018, [FTI consulting](#) organised a roundtable on pharmaceutical compounding, on behalf of the small and medium-sized enterprises ([EUCOPE](#)). The objective of this roundtable was to exchange on the conditions for prescribing and dispensing officinal and magistral preparations (referred to as ‘compounding’). The pharma industry would like to prevent the use of medicinal preparations when a manufactured drug is authorised for the same indication. The industry argues that, in some cases, medicinal preparations are used at national level for economic reasons rather than patient specific needs. During the roundtable, several stakeholders raised the aspect of high prices of certain manufactured products, leading to favour keeping compounding. After this meeting, stakeholders were invited to provide feedback whether they wish to contribute to drafting a joint position paper.

WMA initiative on Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care

The Executive Committee decided to collaborate in a WMA campaign highlighting the role of doctors in primary care.

CPME was invited by the World Medical Association (WMA) to contribute to the awareness raising activities planned in the context of the WHO Global Conference on Primary Care taking place in Astana (Kazakhstan) in October 2018. The event will mark the 40th anniversary of the [WHO Alma Ata declaration](#) with the launch of a new statement. As a first step it is planned to publish a joint press release, currently being prepared by WMA.

DG GROW call for tender: study on behavioral economics

The Executive Committee took note of a [call for tender](#) published by the Commission for a study into the potential use and impact of behavioural economics in the regulation of health professions. It was agreed that CPME should monitor the process, but not get directly involved in the study.

This study will take place against a background of several initiatives on deregulating health professions which DG GROW is currently pursuing.

Memorandum of understanding with pharmacists

The Executive Committee took note of the draft memorandum of understanding with pharmacists, and agreed to forward it to the pharma WG for consideration.

The document aims at following up on the [draft joint paper](#) with pharmacists on adherence to medicinal treatment which was discussed during the CPME Board meeting in April 2018. Several delegations expressed concerns on the proposed joint paper in the light of the difficult national contexts they operate in. The new

document, which aims at better structuring joint activities and interests at EU level, will therefore be discussed during the pharma WG meeting in November in Geneva and then forwarded to the CPME board for decision.

German EDU medical courses in Malta

The Executive Committee agreed to draft a CPME statement on online medical courses. It was also agreed to discuss it further in the membership and prepare a policy for the November meetings.

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.

Whistleblower Directive

The Executive Committee was informed that the Commission has published a [proposal for a Directive](#) creating mechanisms and rights for employees acting as ‘whistleblowers’. It was agreed to monitor the negotiations and meet with the Commission if necessary for further clarification.

The proposal aims at establishing a mechanism which shall be applicable to whistleblowing in relation to a pre-defined list of EU laws, including healthcare related legislation. It also includes a recital which provides that “professional privilege”, i.e. confidentiality shall not be affected by the law.

Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA)

The Executive Committee took note of the [minutes](#) of the meeting of the Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment ([HSPA](#)) which Dr de Deus attended on behalf of CPME. It was also decided that the CPME Secretariat will liaise with DG SANTE for follow-up action.

Alcohol Labelling

The Executive Committee took note of the CPME draft policy on alcohol labelling.

The EU Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers ([1169/2011](#)) includes rules on listing ingredients and providing a nutrition declaration. These rules are mandatory for all foods and almost all beverages. However, there is an exemption for beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol per volume! CPME, together with other health NGOs, has participated in several advocacy activities to end the exemption for alcoholic beverages from EU Reg 1169/2011. The debate on alcohol labelling is expected to continue for the next years. Since CPME does not have its own specific policy it appears necessary to develop such. The draft will be first reviewed by Dr Patrick O’Sullivan, CPME Rapporteur on Alcohol, discussed by the CPME WG and forwarded to the CPME Board in November 2018.

Any other business

Defensive medicine

The Executive Committee decided that the CPME discussion on defensive medicine should continue.

The question was brought to the EC by the CPME Rapporteur on Defensive Medicine Dr Daiva Brogienė, after comments from the membership included the recommendation to discontinue the current work on a draft CPME policy. The EC reviewed all comments received and decided that the internal discussion process should continue. It was agreed that the current form of the draft policy requires revision to reflect the discussion and align it with CPME policies. The Rapporteur will be asked to coordinate this task.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) proposal

The Executive Committee took note of the status of the ongoing negotiations on the HTA legislative proposal.

The European Parliament, which is supporting the mandatory approach taken by Commission, is currently finalising its position on the issue. Nevertheless, the inclusion of medical devices in the scope of the proposal is still under discussion between the different political groups. On the other hand, the EU Council is largely divided on the HTA file. Several Member States already indicated their opposition towards a mandatory scheme as proposed by the commission. Germany and France prepared a joint proposal for a fully voluntary approach. This proposal will be discussed in the EU Council, but the Commission will most likely reject any proposal for a fully voluntary scheme. CPME secretariat will continue to monitor the negotiations but will not undertake any additional proactive actions for the time being.

European Health Summit

The Executive Committee decided to not take any active role in the preparation of the European Health Summit organised by the pharma industry and to only attend the event on the condition that CPME is not linked to any outcome of the conference.

The objective of this event is to present policy recommendations elaborated by various stakeholders, under the lead of the pharma industry, on different topics (i.e. research and innovation, health data and digital health, healthcare organisation and financing as well as health in all policies), ahead of the European parliament elections in 2019.

International calendar

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

Catholic hospital broke EU law by firing doctor for remarriage, ECJ rules

The European Court of Justice ruled on September 11, 2018 that the dismissal of a doctor by a Catholic-run hospital in Germany because he got married for a second time amounts to discrimination under EU law. In its ruling, the Luxembourg court said the “prohibition of all discrimination on grounds of religion or belief (...) is a mandatory general principle of EU law.” The court further added this was “sufficient in itself to confer on individuals a right that they may actually rely on in disputes between them in a field covered by EU law.” The case now returns to the German justice system for the final ruling. The CJEU’s press release with a link to full text of the judgments can be found [here](#).

Health ministers discuss supply of medicines and digital health

On 10 and 11 September 2018, the EU health ministers met for an informal Council. The agenda included a discussion on the regulatory and policy-related challenges in securing supply of centrally authorised medicines and approaches to investment in digital health. One outcome is the request to the eHealth Network to develop a catalogue on interoperability standards. On both items, there were presentations by WHO-Europe. This informal discussion will be followed by a formal Council meeting on 6-7 December 2018.

Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his last State of the Union speech

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual and last State of the Union speech (full text [here](#)) to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday 12 September 2018. He set out his vision for the future of the European Union ahead of the 2019 European elections touching different topics such as:

- Economy (“Europe’s economy has now grown for 21 consecutive quarters.”);
- Brexit (“we respect the British decision to leave our Union, even though we continue to regret it deeply. But we also ask the British government to understand that someone who leaves the Union cannot be in the same privileged position as a Member State. [...] After 29 March 2019, the United Kingdom will never be an ordinary third country for us. The United Kingdom will always be a very close neighbor and partner, in political, economic and security terms.”);
- Immigration (“Europe must remain a tolerant open continent. Europe will never become a fortress turning its back on the world, notably the part of the world which is suffering.”).

Unfortunately, we didn’t register any mention to the health policy. CPME will keep following any further developments on the future of health and will call on EU policy-makers and Member States to make sure that health is adequately taken into account in the next EU agenda and budget.

The 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The Committee will convene in Rome, Italy, on 17-20 September. The annual meeting will discuss new evidence on health and well-being of Europeans and track progress against key health targets. Agenda highlights are the following:

- A new strategy on men’s health and well-being.

- Adoption of the Action Plan to Improve Public Health Preparedness and Response in the WHO European Region.
- Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization
- Vector-borne diseases
- Health financing

More information can be found [here](#).

CPME video statement [available here](#).

You may also find below the CPME statements to WHO Regional Committee for Europe:

- [CPME Statement](#) on the report on the WHO high-level meeting, Health Systems Respond to NCDs: Experience in the European Region/Progress report on implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025 ([Agenda item 5\(e\)](#)).

- [CPME Statement](#) on the vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization: realizing the full potential of the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020 ([Agenda Item 5\(i\)](#)).

- [CPME Statement](#) on the Report on the WHO high-level meeting, Health Systems for Prosperity and Solidarity: Leaving No One Behind ([Agenda item 5\(j\)](#)).

- [CPME Statement](#) on the implementation of the European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance ([Agenda item 5\(o\)](#)).

CPME news and publications



SAVE THE DATE - Fostering development of national/regional health workforce planning - webinar 26 September 2018, 11h00-12h00

As part of the [SEPEN joint tender](#) activities, we aim to sustain cross-country cooperation and provide support to Member States to increase their knowledge, improve their tools and succeed in achieving a higher effectiveness in health workforce planning processes and policy. In that context, the joint tenderer launched a call for interest to benefit from a national exchange of expertise, such as workshops, training/coaching or peer reviewing. Member States will have a positive track record of experience with their own participation to the development of health workforce planning and policy making at national and local/regional level.

Do you need improvements in your national/local health workforce planning?

Are you committed to develop your health workforce planning capacity in your country?

Would you like to have a tailored consultation from experts?

If yes, join our webinar on **26 September at 11h00** and find out how to foster developments.

Agenda and technical details to access the webinar will be sent in the coming days.

CPME meetings, Geneva 10-11 November 2018



Dear members,

[we kindly invite you to register to the CPME meetings using this link](#)

The meeting schedule:

Thursday, 8 November 2018

18:30 – 21:00: CPME Reception, kindly hosted upon invitation of The World Medical Association WMA, 13, ch. du Levant - CIB Bâtiment A, 01210 Ferney Voltaire - France

Friday, 9 November 2018

09:00 – 11:30: “CPME Members’ Conference on Healthcare in Danger”, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc · 1201 Geneva, Switzerland - Ballroom C

11:30 – 13:00: Special Session on National Reports, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland - Ballroom C

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc · 1201 Geneva, Switzerland - Foyer AB

14:00 – 17:00: Working Group meetings, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

18:30 – 19:45: Visit the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, kindly offered by FMH Swiss Medical Association, Avenue de la Paix 17, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

20:00 – 22:15: Cocktail kindly offered by FMH Swiss Medical Association, Gala dinner, Restaurant Vieux Bois - Avenue de la Paix 12 - 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Saturday, 10 November 2018

08:00 – 9:30: Presidents’ roundtable by separate invitation to NMA Presidents and Heads of Delegations, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland - Room Lemman AB

09:30 – 16:00: CPME Board Meeting and CPME General Assembly, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland - Ballroom AB

13:00 – 14:00: CPME Lunch, Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva 19, Quai du Mont-Blanc, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland – Foyer AB

Recent publications on the CPME website

Members’ section:

- [Report on Kick-off Meeting of the Joint Action on Vaccination \(EU-JAV\), Paris, 4 September 2018](#)
- [Report on EU Coordination meeting on IMDRF activities, 30 August 2018](#)

- [Commission Staff Working Document Assessment of stakeholders' experience with the European Professional Card and the Alert Mechanism procedures, SWD\(2018\) 90 final, Brussels, 9.4.2018](#)
- [Report on meeting of the DG SANTE Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment \(HSPA\), Lisbon, 28 June 2018](#)

CPME News section:

- [European doctors request end of campaign against physicians in Turkey](#)

Spotlight on the elections:

- [Elections: CPME Election Manual 2016-2018](#)