



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!



January 2020

Dear CPME members,

We are happy to send you the latest winter edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin. The members of the Executive Committee and the CPME Secretariat also would like to take the opportunity to wish you a good and healthy start to the New Year.

With this edition, you will be informed about the decisions taken by the members of the Executive Committee on the occasion of the EC meeting on 23 January 2020. The items discussed included, for example, updates on running projects, the CPME engagement against cancer and a discussion on the dates of the CPME General Assembly in 2021.

We hope the bulletin is informative and we invite you to consult our [latest news](#) and the members' section of our website to be always updated on CPME activities.

Please, don't hesitate to contact us directly if you have any comments, questions or concerns.

Cordially,

*Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
CPME President*

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Executive Committee meeting

Presentation of ‘State of Health in the EU’ publications by DG SANTE, CPME offices

Mr Sylvain Giraud (Head of unit, “Performance of national health systems”) and Mr Federico Pratellesi (Policy Officer) from DG SANTE, presented the compilation process and content of the State of Health in the EU ([CPME Info 008-2020](#)). The Executive Committee discussed the background to the data presented, in particular the ratio of doctors to nurses to population. It was explained that the high number of both doctors and nurses in Norway has geographic reasons, but also results from doctors’ and nurses’ practice being largely separate, with doctors taking on many non-medical tasks due to the lack of alternative options. Currently, there is no willingness among nurses or policy-makers to change this. It was highlighted that the distribution of different specialties rather than the overall ratio is also important, in particular as regards general practice. It was highlighted that in the UK the ratio of general practitioner per population has returned to the level of the 1950s. It was furthermore reported that a recent study had concluded that it requires 4-5 advanced practice nurses to substitute one general practitioner position. Similarly, where shortages force non-GPs into general practice, referrals to other parts of the healthcare service rocketed from a 5% average to much larger numbers. The EC thanked DG SANTE for the presentation and will continue the exchange on these findings.

Internal affairs

Follow up on social media activities since November 2019

The Executive Committee discussed how CPME members respond to the use of Twitter.

More private accounts from the CPME membership are following and supporting the CPME official accounts. However, engagement from the official National Medical Associations’ accounts is still low. The EC members agreed to discuss this issue with their own National Medical Associations, putting in contact the social media or communication manager with the CPME Secretariat to better coordinate messages via Twitter.

During the CPME Board meeting held in Helsinki in November 2019, the CPME Vice-President Dr Ray Walley gave a presentation ([CPME Info 174-2019](#)) explaining the relevance and impact of Twitter in shaping opinions and reaching out to the press, institutions, stakeholders and to members. CPME members, both individuals and National Medical Associations’ accounts, were invited to follow and share the CPME account and coordinate, where necessary, any Twitter campaign.

GA and Board meetings 2021

The Executive Committee was informed that the Estonian Medical Association is exploring all possibilities to reschedule the CPME General Assembly and Board meetings from April to March 2021.

The results of this assessment will be shared with the CPME Secretariat in the coming weeks, therefore the EC forwarded any decision to the EC meeting of February 2020.

The Executive Committee accepted the request by the Norwegian Medical Association to shift the CPME General Assembly and Board meeting to 26-27 November 2021.

GA and Board draft agendas – Zagreb (Croatia) April 2020

The Executive Committee took note of the draft agendas of the upcoming General Assembly and Board meeting.

The General Assembly and Board meetings will be held in Zagreb on 3-4 April 2020. The first set of draft agendas together with a registration link will be shared with the CPME membership during the first week of February 2020.

Policies

Action against cancer

The Executive Committee discussed what CPME will address in “[the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan](#)” and decided to send a [statement](#) on key requests to Stella Kyriakides, EU Commissioner on Health and Food Safety in the area of prevention.

On 4 February 2020 (the World Cancer Day), the European Commission organises the conference “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan – Let’s strive for More” to launch discussions with citizens and stakeholders on Europe’s Cancer Plan - one of the von der Leyen Commission’s main priorities in the area of health.

According to WHO, “30-50% of cancer deaths could be prevented by modifying or avoiding key risk factors and implementing existing evidence-based prevention strategies”.

The key risk factors are e.g.:

- Smoking and excessive use of alcohol
- Overweight/obesity and unhealthy diet
- Physical inactivity
- Air pollution
- Not being vaccinated against hepatitis B and HPV

There are several policy options to reduce the number of cancers caused by these risk factors. The draft CPME statement suggests some measures for the Commission to take up.

Updates on running projects

- SEPEN (Support for the health workforce planning and forecasting expert network)

The Executive Committee was informed that while CPME’s task of consolidating the SEPEN expert network and moderating activities is proceeding as planned, there are considerable delays on the deliverables coordinated by other partners.

The most urgent problem is the compilation of country sheets mapping health workforce planning across the EU, which KU Leuven was paid to do. The CPME members in Austria, Croatia, Finland and Slovenia kindly agreed to help with this and have input data and analyses to their respective country sheets. The continuation of the SEPEN joint tender is contingent on the successful delivery of all country sheets by the end of January. SEPEN is scheduled to conclude by September 2020.

- Coalition for vaccination tender

The Executive Committee was informed that CPME submitted its tender offer on 17 January 2020. Remark: on 31 January 2020, the European Commission accepted the CPME offer.

In its offer, CPME proposed to make an advocacy campaign for doctors, to be launched in the European

Immunization Week 2020. The objective of the campaign would be to promote the uptake of vaccines among healthcare professionals themselves but also patients. The campaign would be based on 3 video spots, tested among healthcare professionals and students before their release. The work would be aligned with advocacy initiatives carried out by other members of the Coalition, in particular the European Federation of Nurses Associations ([EFN](#)) and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union ([PGEU](#)).

- EPF tender on vaccination

The Executive Committee was informed that the European Patients' Forum ([EPF](#)) together with CPME and others was awarded the tender "Pilot project – Improving uptake and confidence in vaccines for patients with chronic diseases, families and communities".

As a consequence, the 18-month-long project, led by the EPF will start with a kick-off meeting at DG SANTE in Luxemburg on 31 January 2020. The project will focus on the importance of life-course vaccination for patients with chronic diseases. Its aims to provide patients with chronic diseases and health professionals (and supporting communities such as patients' associations, families and caretakers), with tailored information (i.e. tool kits) in all EU languages about the vital importance of vaccines in their specific context, thus improving their confidence in vaccines and empowering them to make the best possible decisions on vaccination. This includes also social media activities involving patients and health professionals. EPF is responsible for the tender management and reporting. CPME's role is related to the validation of the materials produced. Other consortium partners include the European Health Management Association ([EHMA](#)) and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research ([Inserm](#)).

- Vaccine confidence project

The Executive Committee was informed that the 2020 State of Vaccine Confidence in the EU project has not yet kicked off.

In 2019, CPME decided to participate in the project, led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine ([LSHTM](#)) and the Vaccine Confidence, by disseminating a survey to ensure that a large number of healthcare professionals are reached.

- EU-JAV (European Joint Action on Vaccination)

The Executive Committee was informed that the European Joint Action on Vaccination ([EU-JAV](#)) is still running but the work is mainly done by the EU Member States, and the stakeholders have only a minor role.

EU-JAV aims to strengthen cooperation between European countries to fight vaccine-preventable diseases and is coordinated by Inserm.

- EU JAMRAI (European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections)

The Executive Committee was updated about the CPME involvement in the European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections ([EU JAMRAI](#)), in particular in WP7 (appropriate use of antimicrobials) and WP8 (awareness-raising and communication).

The joint action started in September 2017 and ends in August 2020. CPME was present at the EU JAMRAI General Assembly and Stakeholder Forum in September 2019 ([CPME Info 119-2019](#)) where the work progress was presented. Recently, the joint action launched a [contest to find the first global Antibiotic Resistance Symbol](#).

- EUSTAR

The Executive Committee was informed that the project proposal led by [Inserm](#) did not pass the selection procedure, therefore couldn't be founded.

This project was meant to contribute to implementing the [EU guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in human health](#), published by the Commission in June 2017. CPME declared its interest in dissemination of the project's consortium's outcomes. However, the proposal received only a good ranking for the technical and political aspects but registered a lower score for the budget planning.

Brexit

The Executive Committee decided to continue joint action with the other European Medical Organisations (EMOs) on the topic of Brexit, and to seek a meeting the negotiators of the future EU-UK free trade agreement in the European Commission.

The Executive Committee was also informed that CPME attended the launch of a poster exhibition 'Keeping Europe Healthy: the European medical profession in a post-Brexit Europe' coordinated by the British Medical Association (BMA) and hosted by [MEP Catherine Bearder](#) in the European Parliament. The exhibition illustrates the results of the BMA survey on the impact of Brexit on mobility, in particular on EU-trained doctors. In a next step, a joint statement by the EMOs will be disseminated in reaction to the European Parliament's vote on the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on 29 January 2020.

Clinical trials reporting

The Executive Committee decided not to co-sign the joint letter asking to make clinical trials results public on the EU trial registry EudraCT.

It was agreed that the Secretariat will explore whether there is the necessity to react on this topic and if a separate letter should be sent. CPME has been contacted by [TranspariMED](#), an organisation promoting clinical trials transparency, with a focus on trial registration and outcome reporting, to co-sign a joint letter to be sent to individual universities in the EU.

International calendar

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

Monitoring news

16th World Health Professions Regulation Conference - 16 May 2020

The 6th World Health Professions Regulation Conference (WHPRC 2020) will provide participants with new insights, diverse perspectives and emerging solutions to current challenges in health professional regulation. The 2020 edition is a one-day event, bringing together health professionals from around the world on Saturday 16 May 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference will welcome over 150 representatives from national Health Professional associations and societies, including regulators.

WHPRC 2020 will revolve around two key regulation topics: the value of strong regulatory bodies to deliver quality care and the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The full-day programme will be available online in the coming weeks.

The reduced, Early Bird registration fee of CHF 290 is available now until 27 February 2020. [Register now](#).

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

Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions

On 15 January, a large majority in the European Parliament adopted a [Resolution](#) on the [European Green Deal](#), which was presented by Commission President von der Leyen in a plenary debate in December. MEPs welcomed and supported an ambitious the European Green Deal. Moreover, the Parliament stressed the need to speed up reduction of greenhouse-gas emission. Parliament wants the upcoming Climate Law to include higher ambitions for the EU's 2030 goal of emissions reductions (55% in 2030 compared to 1990, instead of "[at least 50% towards 55%](#)", as proposed by the Commission). They also want an interim target for 2040 to ensure the EU is on track to reach climate neutrality in 2050. The Resolution also mentions the benefits for health which an ambitious European Green Deal can deliver.

New EP working group on the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive

MEP Cristian Buşoi (RO, EPP) has established an informal working group ahead of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) revision scheduled for 2021. According to an [article](#) in EU Reporter, Buşoi proposed that the

working group will meet on a regular basis every two months and suggested that it should interview representatives from the Commission, the EU Member States, national parliaments, anti-tobacco associations, specialists, external personalities, lawyers, and tobacco industry executives. The current Directive, which places limits on the manufacture, presentation and the sale and merchandising of tobacco and tobacco related products in the EU, entered into force in 2014 and became applicable in 2016. It has been considered to be the most lobbied file in the EU's history.

Belgium, Slovenia and Israel introduce plain cigarette packs

Legislation on plain cigarette packaging entered into force in Slovenia and Belgium on 1 January and in Israel on 8 January 2020. In Slovenia and Israel, the legislation is implemented both at manufacturer and retailer level. In Belgium, retailers may continue to sell the stocked products until 31 December 2020. The countries are following the example of other European countries such as France, the UK, Norway, Ireland and Turkey, which have implemented similar laws. Elsewhere, plain packaging already exists in Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Canada and Uruguay.

Croatian presidency to focus on healthy ageing and organ donation

On 1 January, Croatia took over the presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time. Among its priorities in health policy, Croatia will put an emphasis on organ donation, and on life-long healthcare. On the former topic, it is intended to adopt Council Conclusions on 12 June. Additional events will include

- High level conference on Transplantation and Organ Donation, 16-17 March 2020, Zagreb.
- Conference "Better Future of Healthy ageing 2020, 6-7 April, Zagreb.
- eHealth Week, 15-17 April, Rovinj.
- Informal EPSCO for Health, 29-30 April, Croatia.
- EPSCO Council for Health, 12 June, Luxembourg: incl. update on negotiations on draft HTA Regulation, policy debate on life-long healthcare, adoption of Council Conclusions on organ donation.

Overall, the Croatian presidency has set out its [work programme](#) around 'A Europe that develops – A Europe that connects – A Europe that protects – An influential Europe'. It will address i.a. future action on climate change, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the (digital) skills agenda (including the adoption of Council Conclusions), gender equality, migration, and enlargement. The latter point will revisit the accession prospects of countries in the West Balkans. The presidency will also oversee Brexit, as well as the launch of negotiations on the future UK-EU free trade agreement. It is furthermore tasked with preparing the Member States' input to the two-year Conference on the future of Europe which Commission President von der Leyen has initiated.

CPME becomes a member of a global tobacco control alliance

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) became a member of the [Framework Convention Alliance \(FCA\) in the end of 2019](#).

FCA is a civil society alliance with a mission to help strengthen the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and support its full and accelerated implementation worldwide. It is made up of nearly 500 non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries. The Smoke Free Partnership (SFP), CPME's

partner organisation in Brussels, serves as a regional coordinator of FCA for the European region.

After Brexit: current rules and future relationship

31 January 2020 was the last day of the United Kingdom's EU membership. To look ahead to the future relations, the European Commission published its [draft negotiation mandate](#) for a free trade agreement between the EU and the UK on 3 February. It is accompanied by various explanatory documents, including an [overview of questions and answers](#) and [graphics](#) setting out both content and process.

In terms of CPME priorities, the draft negotiation mandate proposes to consider a framework for the recognition of professional qualifications, which is in line with the commitments made earlier. In general however, there are few mentions and no specific commitment relating to health, nor is it identified as a specific chapter of negotiations. It therefore remains to be seen how health services, for example, are treated in the general services negotiations. CPME has co-signed a joint letter of the European Medical Organisations to Michel Barnier who will continue to lead EU negotiations. The letter highlights the key concerns of the European medical profession and requests a meeting.

In the meantime, the ratification of the [Withdrawal Agreement](#) ensures that a transition period will apply until 31 December 2020; any extensions to this must be agreed by both the United Kingdom and the EU. Until the end of the transition period, EU law continues to apply in the United Kingdom. The European Commission has published an [overview of questions and answers](#).

On citizens' rights, including the recognition of professional qualifications, the following information is provided:

"II. What has been agreed on citizens' rights?

[]

The Withdrawal Agreement safeguards the right to stay and continue their current activities for over 3 million EU citizens in the United Kingdom, and over 1 million UK nationals in EU countries. Who is protected by the Withdrawal Agreement?

The Withdrawal Agreement protects those EU citizens residing in the United Kingdom, and UK nationals residing in one of the 27 EU Member States at the end of the transition period, where such residence is in accordance with EU law on free movement.

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Which rights are protected?

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Union citizens and UK nationals, as well as their respective family members, can continue to live, work or study in the host state as they currently do under the same substantive conditions as under Union law, benefiting in full from the application of the prohibition of any discrimination on grounds of nationality and of the right to equal treatment compared to host state nationals. The only restrictions that apply are those derived from Union law or as provided for under the Agreement. The Withdrawal Agreement does not prevent the United Kingdom or Member States from deciding to grant more generous rights.

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Additionally, when a person covered by the Withdrawal Agreement who had his or her professional

qualifications recognised in the country (an EU Member State or the United Kingdom) where he or she currently resides or, for frontier workers, where he or she works, will be able to continue to rely on the recognition decision there for the purpose of carrying out the professional activities linked to the use of those professional qualifications. If he or she has already applied for the recognition of his or her professional qualifications before the end of the transition period, his or her application will be processed domestically in accordance with the EU rules applicable when the application was made." (European Commission, 2020, Questions and Answers on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020)

Public consultation and roadmap on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

On 4 February, the European Commission opened a public consultation and a roadmap for feedback on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The deadline to comment the roadmap is 3 March and the consultation 28 April. The Commission will take the feedback into account for further development of the plan which aims to reduce the cancer burden for patients, their families and health systems. The plan will address cancer related inequalities between and within EU Member States with actions to support, coordinate and complement Member States' efforts. The Commission will summarise the input received in a synopsis report. Please find the consultation questionnaire [here](#) and download the roadmap [here](#). CPME is planning to react to the both.

CPME news and publications

CPME social media

Twitter: @CPME_EUROPA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StandingCommitteeofEuropeanDoctors/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/standing-committee-of-european-doctors-cpme/?viewAsMember=true>

Recent publications on the CPME website

Members' section:

- [Report of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Conference – Brussels, 4 February 2020](#)
- [The Statute of Doctors Chamber of Republic of North Macedonia – ENGLISH](#)
- [Flexible Working in Europe – Results from a European Survey](#)
- [Report European Cancer Forum – Towards a New Era in Cancer Care Brussels, 28 January 2020](#)
- [Report MEP Interest Group on European Patients' Rights & Cross-border Healthcare Brussels, 28 January 2020](#)
- [Report Air pollution and Health: Recent Advances to Inform the European Green Deal Brussels, 21-22 January 2020](#)
- [Report ICF / European Commission consultation workshop on the Tobacco Products Directive Brussels, 10 December 2019](#)
- [CPME minutes Board Meeting, Helsinki \(Finland\) 16 November 2019](#)
- [CPME minutes General Assembly Meeting, Helsinki \(Finland\) 16 November 2019](#)
- [Letter for nomination of new Board member and Head of Delegation for Sweden, April 2020](#)
- [Report on event "Innovations in Health and Social Care – Enhancing Health and Well-being in Europe", Brussels, 3 December 2019](#)
- [Report Report BMA – Secondary care matters – Shaping the future of safe, sustainable hospital-based healthcare in Scotland 2019](#)
- [Report of the Council of Europe's Bioethic Committee's roundtable on mental health – Brussels, 26 Nov 2019](#)
- [Policy Development and Advocacy – visualisation of CPME activities 2019](#)
- [Final fees 2020 – contribution key](#)

CPME News section:

- [CPME Statement on Europe's Cancer Plan](#)
- Implementing a One Health culture in undergraduate education to tackle current and future health challenges: Press release available [here](#). Report of the debate available [here](#).
- [CPME becomes a member of a global tobacco control alliance](#)