



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*

July 2018

Dear CPME members,

We are delighted to send you our summer edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the Executive Committee decisions taken on 19 July 2018.

The CPME Executive Committee agenda included, amongst other items, a discussion about the Irish Public Health (Alcohol) Bill. In the meantime you have received further information in a letter sent to you on 24 July 2018.

Furthermore, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July CPME, together with the Semmelweis University, organised a launch webinar explaining the Support for the health workforce planning and forecasting expert network (SEPEN) joint tender. We thank all the participants for their contributions and take the chance to share with you the link ([available here](#)) of the recording.

We wish you a pleasant summer holiday!

Kind regards,

Annabel Seebohm  
CPME Secretary General

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## Executive Committee meeting

### Internal affairs

#### EC meeting dates 2019

*The Executive Committee agreed to discuss an EC meeting schedule for 2019 during the EC meeting in September.*

### Policies

#### Tobacco

*The Executive Committee approved the [CPME response to the public consultation](#) on excise duties applied to manufactured tobacco and the possible taxation of novel products, as amended by the Rapporteur, Dr Patrick O'Sullivan.*

This consultation gathers stakeholders' views on:

- the current tobacco taxation systems in the EU,
- novel products (e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products) and
- appropriate options for a possible revision of [Council Directive 2011/64/EU](#).

The Directive sets out EU rules on the structure and rates of excise duties (i.e. a tobacco tax) applied to manufactured tobacco. In particular, it defines and classifies various tobacco products according to their characteristics and lays down the relevant minimum rates and structure of excise duties. In addition, the Commission will separately consult the national tax authorities, experts and other key stakeholders.

#### Alcohol

*The Executive Committee approved the [contribution](#) to the [European Commission's TRIS database](#) as amended by the Irish Medical Organisation. The contribution is to be submitted to the database and sent to CPME members with a [letter](#) encouraging them to get into a dialogue with their governments.*

[The Irish Public Health \(Alcohol\) Bill](#) was published in 2015 but is not yet enacted. It aims to reduce the consumption and harms associated with alcohol in Ireland by *i. a.* introducing labels with health warnings and restrictions on advertising. In spring, the European Commission warned Ireland that the Bill and its restrictions on alcohol advertising may conflict with EU law. The Commission also challenged the labelling plans for a warning sign linking cancer and alcohol on bottles and cans. Also, the alcohol industry has been lobbying heavily against the Bill. Moreover, 14 EU Member States have raised objections, saying the bill is a disproportionate response to the alcohol misuse damaging trade and discriminating against new products entering the Irish market.

#### Public consultation on digital ethics

*The Executive Committee took note of the [CPME response to the public consultation](#) on digital ethics, conducted by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS).*

This consultation reflects on the legal and ethical consequences of new technologies. In line with previous policies, the CPME response raises awareness on health data sharing and the WMA Declaration of Taipei on ethical considerations regarding health databases and biobanks.

#### One Health conference

*The Executive Committee took note of an update on the planning of the One Health conference which will*

*take place on 5 December 2018 in Paris.*

This pilot conference will aim at fostering an open exchange between academics, policy-makers, professionals and students of medical, dental and veterinary school from France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg region on how to implement the One Health approach in undergraduate education.

#### **Invitation to EU-JAMRAI stakeholder forum**

*Since all CPME members and officers will be in Geneva for the upcoming General Assembly and Board Meeting and CPME presence is needed during the forum, the Secretariat is commissioned to contact the Austrian Medical Chamber whether they could send a participant.*

In the context of the joint action on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections ([EU-JAMRAI](#)), CPME has been invited to the first stakeholder forum in November 2018 in Vienna and to intervene during the roundtable discussion on ‘training and education: enabling all healthcare professionals to tackle AMR and prevent HAIs’.

### **International calendar**

The Executive Committee took note of the international calendar and agreed to discuss it in more detail at the next EC meeting on 6 September 2018.

## Monitoring news

### **Combatting health inequalities: the Health4LGBTI project publishes guidance**

The two-year project ‘Reducing health inequalities experienced by LGBTI people’ (Health4LGBTI), co-funded by DG SANTE, has published its final deliverables. These include a mapping study, a collection of testimonies from focus groups, and training material for healthcare professionals. The training material provides guidance on, concepts and terms, health and health inequalities; communication & practice; and trans & intersex health. A trainers’ manual facilitates the implementation of the different modules. This material was tested in pilot projects, the evaluation of which is also published. All information is available [here](#). CPME was not a project partner, but was invited to the final conference of Health4LGBTI at which CPME’s commitment to [combatting health inequalities](#) was reaffirmed.

### **Conference on Smoking and Disease in Munich**

The Society for Research in Nicotine and Tobacco Europe (SRNT-E) will organise their [annual scientific conference](#) in Munich on 6–8 September. It aims to provide new knowledge concerning nicotine and tobacco at any level of research. This year’s conference will be centred around the topic of smoking and other diseases. It will try to find out whether smoking makes people ill or illness makes people smoke. Please find the preliminary programme [here](#).

## Surveys on Scientific Bodies under the new EU legislative framework for MDs and IVDs

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has launched three surveys on scientific bodies under the [new EU legislative framework](#) for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics. They aim at retrieving information and views relevant for the establishment and running of [expert panels](#), [EU reference laboratories \(EURLs\)](#) and [expert laboratories](#). The surveys are open until 24 August.

## Commission's task force on subsidiarity handed over its final report to President Juncker

In November 2017, President Juncker established a taskforce on 'subsidiarity, proportionality and doing less more efficiently' to make recommendations on how to better apply the principles of subsidiarity, identify policy areas where work could be re-delegated or definitely returned to EU countries and to find ways to better involve regional and local authorities in EU policy making and delivery. The task force released its [final report](#) in July 2018.

The report makes general recommendations on how to better take into account subsidiarity aspects in EU policy making processes and have to involve regional and local authorities. However, the report doesn't provide guidance with regard to the division of competences between the EU and Member states in specific policy areas. On the contrary, the task force states that: *"There is EU value added in all existing areas of activity and the Task Force did not, therefore, identify any Treaty competences or policy areas that should be re-delegated definitively, in whole or in part, to the Member States."* As a next step, the Austrian Presidency will organise a conference on subsidiarity in Bregenz in November, which will provide an opportunity to further discuss the Task Force report and consider how to take forward its recommendations.

## WHO maps application of code on ethical recruitment

WHO hosted a consultation on the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. The exercise is intended to monitor progress made in recruitment practices since the code's adoption in 2010. CPME took this opportunity to send a letter highlighting CPME's commitment to ethical recruitment. Further information on the consultation can be found [here](#).

## Transposing the Professional Qualifications Directive: Commission reprimands 27 Member States

The Commission announced yesterday that it is launching the first steps of possible infringement procedures against 27 Member States on their failure to properly transpose the amendments to the Professional Qualifications Directive – Lithuania being the only Member State which is not affected. This includes all new elements such as the alert mechanism, language requirements, partial access and the reporting of new rules including proportionality assessment. Member States were obliged to transpose the Directive into national law by January 2016. Currently the Commission is issuing so-called 'letters of formal notice', an [early step](#) of a possible infringement procedure, with the hope of encouraging Member States to fully comply with the Directive's provisions. Please find the full press release [here](#).

## How to improve primary care? Commission report on performance assessment

DG SANTE's EU Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) has published a report entitled 'A new drive for primary care in Europe: rethinking the assessment tools and methodologies'. The report looks into methodologies and benefits of assessing performance indicators linked to primary care. It also identifies obstacles, such as the difficulties in linking assessment outcomes to policy decisions. The following recommendations are proposed:

- Improve primary care information systems
- Embed performance assessment in policy processes
- Institutionalise performance systems
- Ensure accountability
- Consider patients' experience and values
- Take advantage of adaptability, which performance assessment can support in the moment of change for primary care
- Support a goal-oriented approach through the better use of professional and contextual evidence
- For the full report please see [here](#). CPME was invited to participate in the last meeting of the HSPA expert group, a report on this will follow.

## CPME news and publications

### No CPME representation in the ECDC Advisory Forum

On 11 July, the European Commission announced two nominations for the representatives of the professional bodies' organisations at the [Advisory Forum](#) of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Unfortunately, CPME candidates were not nominated. However, Prof. Dr Mathias Pletz is placed on the reserve list.

### CPME Twitter account

[@CPME EUROPA](#) Twitter activities. We renew our invitation to follow us on Twitter to be daily informed on the CPME activities. The CPME account is carefully followed by the European Institutions and main stakeholders in the healthcare sector. The CPME Secretariat actively uses this social media to share messages and lobbying action.



### Recent publications on the CPME website

From CPME News section:

- [CPME supports the Irish Alcohol Bill](#)
- [CPME Response to the Public Consultation on Excise Duties Applied to Manufactured Tobacco and the Possible Taxation of Novel Products](#)
- [CPME response to EDPS public consultation on digital ethics](#)

From Members' section:

- [Report of HTA meetings, May-June 2018](#)

- [Report on the seminar on eHealth co-organised by Jacques Delors Institute and MACIF, 22 May 2018 in Paris](#)
- [CPME response to public consultation on digital ethics](#)
- [Letter from the British Medical Association on the number of registered doctors in UK – 14.06.2018](#)
- [ESIP statement on HTA legislative proposal – Inclusion of medical devices](#)
- [Report of Commission’s event on “The way forward for HTA cooperation – the views of stakeholders”, 9 July 2018 in Brussels](#)
- [Progress report of the Bulgarian presidency on HTA legislative proposal](#)
- [Draft report of the ENVI committee on HTA legislative proposal, amendments 176 to 598](#)
- [Draft opinion of the IMCO Committee on HTA legislative proposal](#)
- [Draft opinion of the IMCO Committee on HTA legislative proposal, amendments 38-181](#)
- [Draft opinion of the ITRE Committee on HTA legislative proposal](#)
- [Draft opinion of the ITRE committee on HTA legislative proposal, amendments 24-149](#)
- [Report of PACT event on ‘What future for EU cooperation on HTA?’, 5 June 2018 in Brussels](#)
- [Report on the workshop on the safety of non-embedded software in health and well-being apps – Presentations](#)
- [CPME contribution to the European Commission’s TRIS database on the Irish Public Health \(Alcohol\) Bill](#)