



Dear colleagues

We are pleased to share with you the December edition our Monthly Bulletin with the outcomes of the Board of Directors meeting on 15 December 2022. We had a productive discussion on financial matters in view of our 2023 budget, identifying a number areas to consider limiting costs to mitigate the high inflation in Belgium and across Europe. We also discussed the ongoing shortage of medicines and agreed to explore the issue with our members next year.

On 23 December the first hearing of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the Turkish Medical Association took place in Istanbul. We are grateful to our Vice President Dr Ole Johan Bakke for representing CPME at the hearing and many of you are raising the profile of the case. We will continue to follow the case during a further hearing announced for 29 December.

We invite you to read about this and much more in this month's Bulletin, and wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer
CPME President



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2022

Finances

Follow-up to General Assembly decision on the 2023 budget

- ▶ The Board decided to review the budget items identified for possible reductions i.e. staff costs, the digital leadership course, communications, and working group meetings.

The Secretariat reported that the exact indexation will be known in early January. A revised budget will be prepared on the basis of the discussion for decision at the March General Assembly.

Internal Affairs

Rules of Procedure

- ▶ The Board reviewed the preliminary overview of points for consideration during the review of the Rules of procedure, in particular relating to the organisation of meetings, and the functioning of working groups.

The Board agreed that the membership's request to change the send-out schedule of documents for the general assemblies should already be applied to the meetings in March 2023.

Appointment of Working Group chairs/rapporteur

- ▶ The Board adjusted and adopted the nomination template which sets out national medical associations' commitment to support nominations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2022

European Medical Organisations' cooperation

- ▶ The Board approved the memorandum of understanding CPME concluded with the other European Medical Organisations to outline the commitment to better cooperation.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer reported that discussions to further deepen cooperation are ongoing, however this will require further reflection.

Policies

Co-signature of UEMO statement on GPs in Spain

- ▶ The Board decided to co-sign a UEMO statement on GPs in Spain.

The General Medical Council of Spain (CGCOM) had been consulted and welcomed CPME's endorsement of the statement.

Invitation to join stakeholder panel of digital health project

- ▶ The Board took note of an invitation to join a "sounding board" of a project where the objective was to understand data-intensive health environments, and to explore different types of infrastructures that were being established, with which implications and for whom.

The invitation is a spin-off from an event where CPME presented its position on the European Health Data Space. The project is organised by Professor Klaus Lindgaard Høyer from the University of Copenhagen, Centre for Medical Science and Technology Studies, Department of Public Health. If the project was approved, the Secretariat would request the CPME Board to consider participating.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2022

Rome Declaration

- ▶ The Board decided not to endorse the Rome Declaration on affordable medicines.

WHO Europe Access to Novel Medicines Platform

- ▶ The Board decided to nominate a focal point and to participate in the process.

The focal point will be responsible for process monitoring and communication, and depending on the topic of the meeting, CPME will delegate an appropriate expert.

Questionnaire to support advocacy activities on the European Health Data Space

- ▶ The Board decided to send a questionnaire on the European Health Data Space to national medical associations.

Medicine shortages

- ▶ The Board discussed medicine shortages across Europe and agreed to prepare a questionnaire.

The draft questionnaire will be presented at the next Board meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2022

Situation of the Turkish Medical Association

- ▶ The Board took note that Ole Johan Bakke will represent CPME in Istanbul at the trial of Şebnem Korur Fincanci, the President of the Turkish Medical Association.

He will take part in a press conference on 22 December. CPME, WMA and the EMOs will publish a joint letter to the Turkish authorities (see next page).

The Board also considered the sentencing of the Mayor of Istanbul to three years imprisonment and banned from holding elected office. The Board also expressed its concern at the situation of health professionals in Iran. The Secretariat noted that WMA has published a statement on violence against health personnel in Iran and will follow their future activities.

European doctors condemn the prolonged detention of leading Turkish doctor

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) condemns the prolonged detention of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the Turkish Medical Association, following a hearing in Istanbul on 23 December.

Prof Fincancı has been in pre-trial detention since 26 October, when she when was imprisoned on charges of 'propaganda for a terrorist organisation' following an interview in which she called for an independent investigation into allegations of the use of chemical weapons. A further hearing will take place on 29 December 2022.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said "European doctors are deeply concerned by the ongoing detention of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı and we continue to call for her unconditional release. Her imprisonment is a violation of her freedom of speech, and we appeal to Turkish authorities to drop these arbitrary charges immediately.

"It is vital that the autonomy and independence of the medical profession is safeguarded, and we fully support her human right and professional duty to highlight allegations of breaches of international law."

Having attended the hearing in Istanbul, CPME Vice President Dr Ole Johan Bakke, added "Today's ruling to prolong Prof. Fincancı's imprisonment does not represent the delivery of fair and impartial justice. It is deeply unjust that she continues to be detained after expressing her opinion in line with her commitment to the ethical values of the medical profession."

CPME, together with the World Medical Association and four European Medical Organisations, this week [wrote](#) to Turkish authorities urging the immediate release of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı on behalf of millions of physicians across the world.

Updates on the case and support is being posted using the [#FreeSebnem](#) hashtag.

Joint letter to the EU environment ministers on air quality

CPME and other civil society organisations sent a [joint letter](#) to European ministers for environment on air quality. The ministers will discuss the European Commission's proposal to revise the EU's ambient air quality directives in the Council of the EU meeting on 20 December. The letter includes recommendations to step up on clean air for health with science-based air quality standards. It highlights that the EU's air quality standards must be fully aligned with the WHO guidelines and the latest science by 2030 at the latest.

Coalition for Vaccination Conference, 17 January, Brussels

On 17 January 2023, the Coalition for Vaccination is organising a conference at the International Auditorium in Brussels to discuss European and national vaccination policies, the results of the EU co-funded IMMUNION project ("Improving IMMunisation cooperation in the European UNION"), and healthcare professionals' role in increasing vaccine confidence and uptake across the life-course. The conference will bring together the Coalition members, the IMMUNION partners, the Council of the EU, the European Commission, the WHO Europe, civil society organisations working on vaccination, and the general public. The final programme will be announced soon on the Coalition [website](#). Registration is available [here](#).

Call for Chair of CPME working group on healthy living

CPME is currently looking for a chair for the working group on healthy living which works on policy areas on alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, and physical activity. Current activities include for example legislative dossiers on alcohol and nutrition labelling as well as on tobacco taxation. Please contact the secretariat in case you are interested in this interesting position: markus.kujawa@cpme.eu

Bilateral meeting with the European Commission – Medical Devices Unit

Please find a meeting report with the European Commission's Medical Devices Unit [here](#).

MONITORING

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council Meeting on 8-9 December

Risk-based extension to Medical Devices Regulation transitional period

The EU Health Commissioner proposed a risk-based approach extension to the transitional period ending in May 2024. For high-risk devices, the extension will last until May 2027, while for medium and low-risk devices until May 2028. The Commission added that the extension should be subject to a certain condition – that only safe medical devices are continuously allowed on the market. Kyriakides also proposed removing a so called “sell-off date” which would result in devices being discarded after the original deadline of 2024. Finally, the Commission announced that certain measures will be looked at to improve access to “orphan devices”, including support for SMEs and establishment of a scientific panel to offer advice to manufacturers. Discussed amendment to the MDR will be adopted by a co-decision procedure. Member States expressed their strong support to the proposed extension and to the objectives of the MDR.

CPME President, Dr Keijzer met with the Head of Unit on medical devices in the European Commission to share European doctor's views and to advocate for a risk-based extension. He also discussed future cooperation with the Commission to ensure full implementation of the MDR. CPME's [letter](#) also gathered significant attention in the press, referenced in Politico and Dr Keijzer was [quoted](#) in Reuters.

Progress made on EHDS by the Czech Presidency

The Presidency briefly reported on the [progress made](#) on the negotiations of the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation on a European Health Data Space (EHDS). The Czech Presidency organised 17 working groups and presented a compromise proposal for Chapter II (Primary use of electronic health data) and Chapter III (EHR systems and wellness applications). The Presidency had also concluded the first reading of the whole EHDS proposal.

MONITORING

Updated Council recommendation to screen for cancer

The Council of the EU proposed a [new recommendation](#) on cancer screening. The member states agreed to broaden the focus to lung cancer, prostate cancer, and gastric cancer, whereas the previous 2003 cancer screening recommendation was limited to breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. On cervical cancer, the recommendation stipulates that member states should consider adapting ages and intervals to individual risk based on the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination history of the individuals.

Revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation

Member States discussed the upcoming legislative package for the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation. Majority of the Member States expressed their support for a graduated system of incentives targeting unmet medical needs. Similarly, many Member States expressed opposition to the idea of a transferable exclusivity voucher to incentivise development of new antimicrobials. Main concerns included unpredictability, costs for national health systems and possible impact on access to other medicines. In response, the European Commission said that if the voucher is proposed in the legislation, it will be carefully balanced to minimize the impact on national healthcare budgets, and to provide needed incentives for the industry.

21 Member States endorse Czech EU Presidency's Call to Action on rare diseases

The Czech Presidency of the Council presented their [Call to Action](#) in the area of rare diseases at the EPSCO Council. This Call to Action was endorsed by 21 Member States, including the Czech Republic, representing 81,6% of the EU population.

MONITORING

New Council conclusions on vaccination

The Council of the EU approved [conclusions on vaccination](#) focusing on combatting vaccine hesitancy and preparing for upcoming challenges through EU cooperation. The Council invites the member states and the European Commission to develop training opportunities (communications and social media training) to allow healthcare professionals to become more versed in effective techniques and tools for countering vaccine mis- and disinformation for developing communication strategies or ensuring effective communication between health professionals and citizens about the benefits of vaccination, involving the Coalition for Vaccination and health professionals' and students associations at national level. Moreover, it invites the member states to build and maintain an adequate health sector workforce capable of providing a rapid and effective response to health threats, as well as improve vaccination coverage among healthcare professionals as a good health practice for the general public.

EU ministers adopt recommendations on early childhood and long-term care

Two [new recommendations](#) were adopted by the Council on early childhood education and care and on affordable high-quality long-term care. These recommendations aim to increase Member States participation in these fields, covering qualitative aspects such as staff-child ratios and group sizes and the territorial distribution of care facilities.

MONITORING

EU Political Outlook

The Swedish Presidency programme

The [Swedish Presidency programme](#) is now published and sets out the priorities and main direction for the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January until 30 June 2023. In the field of health:

- The Swedish Presidency intends to build on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Presidency will address the proposal concerning a Regulation for a European Health Data Space, and the proposal concerning a Regulation on standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application.
- The Swedish Presidency will also promote the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.
- The Presidency will boost the efforts to renew the EU Global Health Strategy and promote effective EU coordination during negotiations in the World Health Organization on an international pandemic treaty and supplementary amendments to the International Health Regulations.
- The Swedish Presidency will prioritise pharmaceutical products and advance the Commission's forthcoming proposals on updating the general pharmaceutical legislation and proposals on new regulations concerning orphan medicinal products and paediatric medicines.

EU institutions agree on joint priorities for 2023 and 2024

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, for the Council of the European Union, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have signed the [Joint Declaration on EU legislative priorities for 2023 and 2024](#). In the field of health, they stand for continuing to build the European Health Union, giving priority to the swift adoption and implementation of the European Health Data Space, and paying special attention to mental health and cancer prevention.

MONITORING

State of Health in the EU: The European Commission and the OECD release 'Health at a Glance: Europe 2022'

On 5 December, the European Commission and the OECD released their joint publication '[Health at a Glance: Europe 2022](#)' at a launch webinar, starting the fourth round of the State of Health in the EU cycle. The 'Health at a Glance: Europe 2022' report focuses on:

- Strengthening the resilience of health systems, crisis preparedness and response capacity through targeted investments.
- Promoting better prevention and treatment of cancer and other non-communicable diseases.
- Preventing and addressing mental health challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic and in the current context of multiple crises.
- Supporting the digital transformation of health systems to make the most out of health data and new digital tools.
- Recognising the importance of regional, national, European and broader international efforts to address global public health threats.

EU Global Health Strategy adopted by the European Commission

A [new EU Global Health Strategy](#) has been adopted by the Commission to improve global health security and deepen EU's leadership in ensuring better preparedness and response to health threats and tackling health inequalities. This new Strategy establishes global health as an essential component of EU external action, as well as geopolitically critical and core to EU strategic autonomy.

MONITORING

First State of Health Preparedness Report shows EU's strong progress

The [first State of Health Preparedness Report](#) has been published by the Commission. This first report emphasises the significant development made in preparedness and response since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Report focuses on the lessons learned from the pandemic and the efforts made to reinforce medical counter measures. Furthermore, it highlights new public health challenges and the specific actions that the Commission will undertake to address them.

Global Health: EU invests €125 million in universal health coverage in partnership with WHO

The EU, together with the World Health Organisation (WHO), will [invest](#) an additional €125 million to extend universal health coverage, in the framework of a new partnership program aimed to strengthen health systems. The partnership was signed by Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros as a key pillar of the new EU Global Health Strategy also adopted by the European Commission..

Joint European Commission and World Health Organization press release on extending strategic cooperation to deliver better health for all

On the occasion of the EU-WHO Strategic Dialogue on Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Commission reached an [agreement](#) to strengthen strategic cooperation in global health security and architecture, as well as in the implementation of core initiatives, such as the new EU Global Health Strategy, the European Health Union and 2022-2026 WHO priorities.

MONITORING

Council and European Parliament agree on new product safety rules

A new [provisional agreement](#) has been reached by the Council and the European Parliament on the general product safety regulation (GPSR). The current rules will be updated to guarantee that offline and online products are safe and live up to European standards.

Defending the rights of persons with disabilities

The European Parliament [adopted](#) the non-binding report “Towards equality for people with disabilities” proposing ways to address discrimination and enable people with disabilities to participate socially and in the labour market.

EU resilience: Council adopts a directive to strengthen the resilience of critical entities

The Council has [adopted](#) a directive and a recommendation to reduce the vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of critical entities. The directive covers critical entities in a number of sectors including health, and the recommendation focuses on strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructures.

Recovery and Resilience Plans: the involvement of stakeholders and their view

A [new paper](#) is published by the European Parliament Think Tank providing an overview of stakeholders’ activities at EU, national, regional and local level, regarding national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs).

MONITORING

New CJEU Judgements in the field of health and medicinal products

- [Case C-418/21](#): On 27 October 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) stated in Case C-418/21 that a product constitutes a food for special medical purposes (FSMP) only when the product is intended to cover specific nutritional requirements resulting from a disease, disorder, or medical condition.
- [Case C-616/20](#): On 18 October, the preliminary ruling published by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Case C-616/20 highlighted that the competent national authority must classify borderline products case-by-case, declaring that medicinal products by function must have a beneficial effect on health.

MONITORING

Professional Practice and Health Systems

New WHO manual: a few simple questions can save millions of lives

WHO has published a [new manual](#) called “Integrated brief interventions for noncommunicable disease (NCD) risk factors in primary care”, as part of the ongoing BRIEF project. This new WHO manual aims to ensure a patient-centred approach in primary-care to reduce the NCD-related burden.

Independent Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health publishes opinion on the impact of the post-COVID-19 condition (long COVID) on health systems

Following the EU-US conference on long COVID, a [new opinion](#) by the independent Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health on the impact of the post-COVID-19 condition on health systems has been published by the Commission. The main recommendations highlight the importance of research, including patient involvement and potential treatments. It also emphasises the need to invest in primary care, specialised training and surveillance systems to track the epidemiology of long COVID.

More nurse strike dates announced in England

Nurses in England will go on [strike](#) again on 18 and 19 January in England unless pay talks are opened, the Royal College of Nursing says. Two days of nurses strikes were held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on 15 and 20 December, involving more than 21,000 nursing staff.

MONITORING

Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

ECDC and EMA collaborate on vaccine safety and effectiveness monitoring studies

On 6 and 7 December, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) held the first meeting of the Immunisation and Vaccine Monitoring Advisory Board (IVMAB) of the [Vaccine Monitoring Platform](#) (VMP). The VMP is a joint initiative through which the two agencies will coordinate and collaborate to reinforce the monitoring of the safety and effectiveness of vaccines in the European Union.

Commission proposes updated EMA fees

A [new proposal](#) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on fees and charges payable to the European Medicines Agency has been adopted by the Commission to update and simplify the legislation and ensure that these fees reflect better the underlying costs of EMA work.

European Medicines Agency investigates shortage of antibiotics

The European Medicines Agency is investigating a chronic shortage in antibiotics across Europe. EMA officials told a press briefing on 16 December that 25 out of 27 EU countries have reported local shortages. Under its expanded remit, EMA now plays a role in monitoring medicines shortages in Europe and coordinating activities to prevent shortages or mitigate their effects.

Decision delayed on broadened TRIPS waiver

A decision on whether to broaden the WTO TRIPS waiver to include COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics is [likely](#) to be delayed indefinitely. On 14 December, 50 MEPs signed a [letter](#) addressed to the EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and the EU Council on trade voicing their support for a broad TRIPS waiver.

MONITORING

Public Health and Disease Prevention

New Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook Report

On 8 December, the European Commission published its first [Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook report](#) setting pathways to cleaner air, water and soil. The Commission report, together with the European Environment Agency's (EEA) monitoring assessment, shows that EU policies have contributed to reducing air pollution as well as pollution from pesticides. However, in other areas such as harmful noise, nutrient pollution or municipal waste generation, problems persist. Moreover, there are still clear inequalities in terms of exposure to pollution. People in lower socio-economic groups are more affected by air pollution. Children are also particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution and chemicals. The results show that overall much stronger action is necessary if the EU is to achieve 2030 zero pollution targets, by adopting new anti-pollution laws and better implementing existing ones.

ENVI and the Conference on the Future of Europe: citizens' debate

On 30 November, [ENVI](#) Members held a debate and listened to Mr. Dorin Hell, one of the citizens' spokespersons of the Conference on the Future of Europe celebrated in May 2022, in the context of the committee's work on the opinion in the form of a letter to the AFCD committee legislative own-initiative report on the "Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties".

WHO recommends new name for monkeypox disease

The World Health Organisation (WHO) will start using a new preferred term "[mpox](#)" as a synonym for monkeypox, regarding the racist and stigmatising connotations of the current term. For one year both names will be used simultaneously until "monkeypox" is phased out.

MONITORING

European Green Deal: Putting an end to wasteful packaging, boosting reuse and recycling

New [EU-wide rules on packaging](#) are proposed by the Commission in order to address this growing source of waste. If no action is taken, the plastic packaging waste in the EU by 2030 will grow at 46%. To stop this trend, the new rules will secure reusable packaging options, get rid of unnecessary packaging, limit overpackaging, and provide clear labels.

EU tobacco tax proposal delayed

On 7 December, the European Commission was expected to publish their proposal on the revision of the Directive 2011/64/EU on excise rules for tobacco (the Tobacco Tax Directive – TTD). This would have been in line with the Commission’s work programme for 2022 and the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan – EU’s current key approach to prevention. However, the proposal is now postponed to 2023. The Smoke Free Partnership’s (SFP) [statement](#) highlights that the delay is beneficial only to the tobacco industry. CPME is a partner in the SFP Coalition. CPME contributed to the Commission’s public consultation on the TTD revision in 2021, highlighting that it is important to acknowledge the health impact of tobacco taxation, as increasing excise taxes on tobacco is the most effective and cost-effective tobacco control instrument.

Thousands of lives and billions of dollars to be saved with smokefree bill passing

The Government of New Zealand approved the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill, which will create an entire [smokefree generation](#) and will save thousands of lives. According to this new regulation, tobacco will not be sold at all to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

MONITORING

WHO/Europe and ECDC report reveals increasing numbers living with undiagnosed HIV in the Region

On World AIDS Day, a [new report](#) has been launched jointly by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). This new report highlights that since at least 2018 and through 2021 more people were infected with HIV in the European Region than had been diagnosed. However, it also indicates that in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), the number of people living with undiagnosed HIV is likely decreasing.

EFSA's Advisory Forum supports Europe's Research Agenda

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), together with the EFSA's Advisory Forum, published a [joint statement](#) inviting the European Commission and national funding programmes to use actively the large food safety research and knowledge ecosystem to ensure that providing healthy nutrition and safe food remains as an EU priority.

MONITORING

Digital Health

Artificial Intelligence Act: Council calls for promoting safe AI that respects fundamental rights

The Council adopted its [general approach](#) on the Artificial Intelligence Act. The Council's common position is aimed at guaranteeing that artificial intelligence (AI) systems placed on the EU market and used in the Union are safe and respect existing law on fundamental rights and Union values, through a risk-based approach.

Guidelines on Value Sets for EU Digital COVID Certificates

On 2 December, the Commission with the support of the eHealth Network and the Health Security Committee published the [guidelines](#) on value sets for the EU Digital COVID certificates, as the value sets related to vaccine and test device coding change often.

Council conclusions on supporting well-being in digital education

On 28 November, the Council adopted [Conclusions on promoting well-being in digital education](#). The conclusions propose a definition for 'well-being in digital education' (point 19) applicable through education and training at primary, lower and upper secondary levels, including vocational education and training (VET). Physical well-being is part of the definition and is understood as "individuals' health level and their capacity to lead a healthy lifestyle". Psychological well-being refers to "learners' opinions and feelings about their own lives and the personal objectives they have set themselves". Points 37 and 42 of the conclusions, including footnote 5, bring a health dimension into the arena. This has been advocated by CPME policy, that is for a health dimension to be considered in relation to digital skills and education, where the user is competent to be aware and can understand risks related to health data sharing and when the digital use becomes an unhealthy behaviour (digital addiction).

MONITORING

EU decides to strengthen cybersecurity and resilience across the Union: Council adopts new legislation

The Council has adopted a [new legislation](#) for a high common level of cybersecurity across the European Union, to increase the resilience and incident response capacities of both the public and private sector, particularly in the fields of health, energy, transport and digital infrastructure covered by the new directive.

Path to the Digital Decade': Council adopts key policy programme for EU's digital transformation

Following the adoption made by the European Parliament, the Council has also adopted the 2030 policy programme '[Path to the Digital Decade](#)' in order to meet the EU objectives for a digital transformation.

Data protection: Commission starts process to adopt adequacy decision for safe data flows with the US

The Commission has launched the process towards the adoption of an adequacy decision for the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework. The [draft decision](#) aims to promote safe trans-Atlantic data flows and deal with the concerns raised by the Court of Justice of the European Union in its Schrems II decision of July 2020.

MONITORING

Declaration on digital rights and principles: EU values and citizens at the centre of digital transformation

The European [declaration](#) on digital rights and principles for the digital decade has been signed by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission to ensure that the EU reaches its objectives for a digital transformation

Regulation of AI as medical devices

The U.K. government's advisory group Regulatory Horizons Council has published a [new report](#) exploring the regulation of Artificial Intelligence in medical settings. The document recommends embracing deployment of AI in healthcare, opting for a "light" regulatory framework, and fast-tracking access to market for medical AI; it also suggests requiring companies to minimise AI biases, and putting in place a post-deployment monitoring system.

Ukraine

Laptops for Ukraine: new initiative to collect tech devices for Ukrainian schools, hospitals and public services

A new initiative: [Laptops for Ukraine](#) is being organised by the Commission, the Ukrainian Ministry of Digital Transformation and Digital Europe. As many more devices are needed for educators and, especially, for nurses, doctors and public administrations, this new initiative aims to collect and deliver laptops, smart-phones and tablets in order to respond to these fundamental needs.



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