



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!

January 2021

Dear colleagues,

I hope you had a good start into the new year. We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin presenting the outcomes of the Executive Committee meeting 21 January 2021 and some latest monitoring news in EU health policy.

I am happy to report that the CPME vaccination policy is adopted. Also on behalf of the Working Group Chair, Dr de Haller, I wish to thank you very much for your valuable contributions and for helping in finalizing this important policy.

*Please note that the CPME Executive Committee proposes **25-26 March and 28-29 October** as General Assembly meeting dates in 2022. The dates are up for decision in our virtual Assembly 20 March 2021.*

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

Kind regards – stay healthy!

*Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
CPME President*

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Executive Committee meeting – 21 January 2021

Internal Affairs

Vacant positions of rapporteurs

The Executive Committee took note of the updated list of rapporteurs including the appointments of Dr Rault (FR) on access to medicines and medicines shortages and Dr Rydgren Stale (SE) on AMR. Members are invited to become Co-Rapporteur on the dossier of health systems.

Virtual General Assembly

The draft agenda was discussed, amended and agreed to be shared with members (see invite send-out 22.01.2021).

WHO-Europe and the Framework of Engagement for Non-State Actors (FENSA)

The Executive Committee took note of the CPME report on its relations with WHO-Europe in the Framework of Engagement for Non-State Actors (FENSA) for the cooperation from 2018 to 2020.

CPME support to the Ukrainian Medical Association Congress on AMR

The Executive Committee members approved to support the Ukrainian Medical Association's virtual congress on AMR on 26 March and to present the results of the recently published [report](#).

Policies

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and Mutual Recognition

The Executive Committee agreed to prepare a statement on the mutual recognition agreement framework in the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement expressing CPME's interest in developing an agreement for doctors and taking the lead on the EU side in this process.

Roadmap EU Health Data Space

The Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a draft statement on the combined evaluation roadmap and inception impact assessment.

CPME Vaccination Policy

The Committee adopted the draft CPME policy on vaccination.

The document was previously discussed by members in October, November and December 2020. On 21 November 2020, the CPME Board mandated the CPME Executive Committee to decide on the adoption of the document to avoid postponing the decision. On 15 December 2020, the CPME Working Group on Vaccination agreed on the text and recommended to adopt the draft.

DG SANTE Digital Health Study

The Executive Committee took note of the study and agreed that CPME members can be consulted if required.

Joint Statement of the Thematic Network Profiling and Training the Healthcare Workforce of the Future

The Executive Committee agreed to endorse the Joint Statement on Profiling and Training the Healthcare Workforce of the Future.

International calendar

The Executive Committee took note of the International Calendar and suggested dates for the General Assemblies and Board Meetings 2022, i.e. **25-26 March 2022 and 28-29 October 2022**. The dates will be put to the Board and General Assembly for decision in March 2021.

Any other business

Call EFPIA /Vaccines Europe request for support for a call to action

The Executive Committee decided to not endorse the call to action on routine and life-course immunization by Vaccines Europe, the association of the pharmaceutical industry within the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

Monitoring

The Roadmap on Food Labelling

On 23 December 2020, the Commission published a roadmap on food labelling information. It describes the objectives and options to establish harmonised front-of pack nutrition labelling and nutrient profiles in the EU. Moreover, the roadmap talks about revised origin labelling and date marking. As stated in the Farm to Fork strategy, the Commission will prepare a legislative proposal by the end of 2022. CPME intends to respond to the public consultation which will be opened later in 2021.

Medics for Clean Air

A new European coalition of doctors, nurses, researchers, medical students, and other health professionals have signed a manifesto for urgent and sustainable actions to tackle air pollution and to protect patients and environment. The [Medics for Clean Air](#) manifesto calls for decision-makers to take note of the latest scientific evidence on the health damage of air pollution as a basis for any future clean transport policy, the EU and national governments to end the sale of new diesel and petrol vehicles by 2028, and a shift from car-based cities to walking, cycling, and public transport. The coalition is supported by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA).

Green Paper on Ageing

On 27 January 2021, the European Commission presented a [green paper](#) to launch a broad policy debate on the challenges and opportunities of Europe's ageing society. It sets out the impact of this pronounced demographic trend across the economy and society. The green paper mentions for example, that healthy and active ageing is about promoting healthy lifestyles throughout our lives and includes our consumption and nutrition patterns and our levels of physical and social activity. The current Commission has put demography high on the EU policy agenda. A [public consultation](#) on the topic will be open until 21 April. Based on the results, the Commission will consider possible policy responses to reinforce efforts in Member States and regions to address the issues around ageing.

Portuguese presidency to tackle European Health Union, access to medicines, digital health, global health

Portugal took over the 6 month presidency of the Council of the EU on 1 January 2021. Alongside the transversal challenge of tackling COVID-19, the flagship topics are:

- Reinforcing Public Health Cooperation-Building a European Health Union: legislative negotiations on health security, EMA, ECDC
- Supporting sustainable, equitable and universal access to medicines and medical devices: preparation of Council Conclusions on Supporting Sustainable, Equitable and Universal Access to Medicines, implementation of Medical Devices Regulation, implementation of Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, continuation of legislative negotiations on Health Technology Assessment; High Level Conference on Access to Medicines and Medical Devices on 27-28 April
- Promoting digital health: including action on digital skills, health data infrastructure, regulatory framework, multiple use of health data and data sharing, and telehealth; 4th eHealth Summit in June
- Strengthening the EU role in Global Health: including action on One Health, climate change, WHO reform, mental health and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan; High Level Conference on strengthening the EU role in Global Health on 25 March; European Cancer Research Summit 2021 on 3 May.

Cross-border healthcare – evaluation of patients' rights

On 20 January 2021, the Commission published an [evaluation and fitness check roadmap](#) of the Directive on patient rights in cross-border healthcare (Directive 2011/24). The latter offers EU nationals the possibility to seek planned healthcare in another EU country and claim reimbursement for treatment from their national health system or health insurance provider. The evaluation will assess whether the Directive's objectives have been met. The Commission intends to identify any challenges faced by patients, health authorities, other stakeholders and citizens; whether barriers still exist for patients to access healthcare in another EU country and enforce the rights to reimbursement. The evaluation is open until **11 February** and we invite CPME Members to participate in this evaluation directly at national level.

EU Health Data Space (EHDS)

On 23 December 2020, the European Commission published a [combined evaluation roadmap/Inception Impact Assessment](#) on the European Health Data Space, where feedback is open until **13 February**. A proposal for a regulation is expected in order for the Commission to tackle different objectives. CPME intends to provide feedback and will highlight the need to define

- what is considered to be 'innovation for the public good' for research purposes;
- to have sector specific legislation for AI in the health area, since the use of AI in health should be considered high risk, and training, testing and validation of AI in health requires further consideration;
- for the principles of the Declarations of Helsinki and Taipei to be complied with in medical research, as the GDPR is not sufficient to address the regulation of health data; and
- for forbidding the use of genetic data for insurance purposes and that ethical objections from patients against certain private entities need to be taken into account in health research.

The Commission will launch a more thorough public consultation between the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2021.

Public opinion on COVID-19 vaccination in the EU

The European Commission has published their [results of a desk research conducted in December 2020 on public opinions concerning the COVID-19 vaccinations](#). The research covers attitudes of

people to vaccination, general satisfaction with EU measures in the fight against COVID-19 and information provided on COVID-19. 24424 interviews were conducted in total.

In total, 44% of respondents were satisfied with the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 45% stating that they are not satisfied. In 14 member states, the majority of respondents stated that they are dissatisfied with the EU's response to the pandemic. A majority of respondents in 12 member states stated they were satisfied.

55% of respondents stated that they trust health professionals, doctors, nurses and pharmacists to provide them with information on COVID-19, 43% stated their trust in the national health authorities when it comes to information being provided and 20% stated their trust in the European Union to provide information.

Commission launches consultation process on a new regulation establishing HERA

European Commission released a [roadmap](#) for a new regulation establishing the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). HERA will strengthen the coordination of operations across the whole value chain and develop strategic investments for research, development, manufacturing, deployment, distribution and use of medical countermeasures. The Authority is also a central element in the Commission's plan on building the [European Health Union](#). Additional public consultation on the regulation will follow still in the first quarter of the year. The Secretariat is now analyzing the roadmap that is open for comments until 24 February.

Commission webinar for healthcare professionals on COVID-19 vaccination

The European Commission and the EU Health Policy Platform will host a webinar for healthcare professionals on COVID-19 vaccination on Wednesday 10 February 11.00-13.00. Please join [here](#) and find the agenda [here](#). The webinar aims to reply to questions and concerns that healthcare professionals might have about COVID-19 vaccines.

CPME News

CPME social media

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New Vaccine Confidence Report

The European Commission has published the [State of Vaccine Confidence in the EU+UK 2020](#) report conducted by the Vaccine Confidence Project. A survey related to the report was shared also with CPME members in spring 2020. In total, more than 13,000 healthcare professionals were surveyed in all EU member states and the United Kingdom. The general public was also surveyed on their confidence in vaccines. The report shows that the overall confidence in vaccination in the EU+UK is high, both among the public and healthcare professionals. Moreover, confidence in the importance and safety of the MMR and seasonal influenza vaccines has increased markedly in a large number of countries since 2018.

The study highlights that the overall confidence among healthcare professionals is higher than confidence among the general public. However, GPs' confidence is relatively low in Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania. It also reveals that GPs surveyed in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia are the least likely to recommend the MMR vaccine to patients. Moreover, it shows that the majority of GPs surveyed in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria would not recommend the seasonal influenza vaccine to pregnant women. The study did not explore perceptions towards a novel COVID-19 vaccine.

Rewatch “Doctors going digital: How to future-proof skills”

The recording of the “Doctors going digital: How to future-proof skills” conference, hosted by the German Medical Association and CPME, which took place in November 2020, is now available to rewatch [here](#). A summary video will be available shortly.

Digital Health Study

On 6 January 2021, CPME was invited to take part in study for the European Commission (DG SANTE) to collect information on potential regulatory gaps and barriers to the cross-border provision of digital health services. This study will feed in the impact assessment that the Commission is carrying-out in relation to the creation of the European Health Data Space. CPME took part of a Focus Group on 25 January 2021, together with the industry and academia to discuss on the following topics:

- privacy and liability rules in relation to eHealth services and products (including mHealth, telehealth);
- professional qualifications for providing telehealth services;
- approval, certification, authorisation and reimbursement of mHealth and telehealth.

Recent publications on the CPME Website

Members' section:

[Joint Statement EUHPP Thematic Network: profiling and training healthcare workers of the future](#)
[Joint Statement Thematic Network Digital Doc: Training future-proof doctors for the digital society](#)
[Agenda of the European Commission Webinar on COVID-19 vaccination "What you need to know as a health professional" – 10 February 2021](#)

[Report of the high-level stakeholder event – Launch of the process "Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices" – 26 January 2021](#)

[Presentation on the European Commission's analysis of the Public Opinion on COVID-19 vaccination in the EU](#)

[Report of the Smoke Free Partnership \(SFP\) Coalition Meeting – 14 January 2021](#)

[DRAFT Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#)

[Report of the Meeting between SANTE DG Sandra Gallina and the co-chairing associations of the Coalition for Vaccination – 6 January 2021](#)

[Chief Medical Officers Meeting – Zagreb, 3-4 March 2020](#)

[CPME Session on Professional Practice and Patients' Rights – Draft Minutes of the meeting, 20 November 2020](#)

[CPME response to public consultations on Social Europe](#)

[CPME Monthly Bulletin – December 2020](#)

CPME news section:

[New CPME Policy on Vaccination](#)

[European doctors are calling for transparency in the EU vaccines negotiations](#)