



Dear colleagues

This edition follows the Board meeting held on 20 July, our last meeting before the summer break. We start to look forward to the General Assembly, 10-11 November 2023, Tallinn, kindly hosted by our colleagues in Estonia. We also discussed our draft amendments to the revision of the EU's pharmaceutical legislation, with short deadlines for input foreseen in the European Parliament.

We recently published our summer [magazine](#), which follows up on the discussions and decisions made at our General Assembly in Dubrovnik in March, with a timely special focus on our priorities for the pharmaceutical legislation and including an interview with MEP Tomas Sokol on the European Health Data Space.

We invite you to read about this and much more and we wish you all an excellent summer.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer

CPME President



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 20 JULY 2023

Finances

Report on accounts

- ▶ The Board took note of the actual accounts. The expenditure is progressing as expected.

The following points were highlighted:

- We are awaiting final approval of the financial reporting on the IMMUNION project.
- The cost of the March general assembly has been included in the accounts. Costs for the November general assembly are also already included.
- The office insurance costs are forecast to exceed the budget by 1700 EUR. This is due to insurances concluded in 2022 not being considered for the 2023 budget. It will be reflected in the planning for the 2024 budget.
- Travel expenses are higher compared to the years during the pandemic restrictions.

Request from Latvian Medical Association

- ▶ The Board approved a request from the Latvian Medical Association regarding the current number of registered doctors for the contribution key for the calculation of membership fees.

It was confirmed that the Latvian Medical Association's request for exemption of temporarily registered doctors from Ukraine is approved on an exceptional basis and the decision will be reviewed next year. It was confirmed that the statutory rules regarding the number of registered doctors as a variable of the contribution key remain unchanged.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 20 JULY 2023

Internal Affairs

General Assembly, 10–11 November 2023, Tallinn, Estonia

- ▶ The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming General Assembly, taking place in Tallinn from 10–11 November 2023.

2024 planning

- ▶ The Board confirmed that the General Assemblies in 2024 will be planned as in person meetings.

The Board also decided on the meeting dates of the Board of Directors for 2024.

Rules of Procedure

- ▶ The Board approved to amend the draft Rules of Procedure, foreseeing that requests to join WGs will in future be assessed by the Board.

This was proposed in particular in the context of the discussion on WG membership of non-members.

Policies

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) Healthy Workplaces campaign

- ▶ The Board decided to renew CPME's partnership for the next EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces campaign 2023-2025.

Since 2011, CPME has participated in the Healthy Workplaces campaigns of the EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). The objective of the campaigns is to raise awareness by providing free practical guides to companies and associations. The upcoming campaign is entitled 'Safe and healthy work in the digital age'.

Doctors' wellbeing

- ▶ The Board discussed a concept note for a policy on Doctors' Wellbeing: Promoting Work-Life Balance and Supportive Environments.

The draft policy will be developed with the rapporteur Dr Jacques de Haller. The WG on Professional Practice will be consulted. The concept note explores the importance of fostering doctors' wellbeing and proposes measures to promote work-life balance, including parenting responsibilities, and create supportive environments within the medical profession, including benchmarks from other national medical associations.

Pharmaceutical legislation

- ▶ The Board discussed the CPME draft amendments on the pharmaceutical package and agreed that the Board will have time until mid-August to approve the amendments.

The draft amendments are based on the CPME policy on the revision of the pharmaceutical legislation and the Position Paper on the EU Pharmaceutical Strategy. A preliminary analysis of the proposals for the revision of the pharmaceutical legislation was shared and discussed with the WG on Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Products on 7 July 2023.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 20 JULY 2023

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

- ▶ The Board discussed the results of the survey on the functioning of the CTIS, and agreed to continue monitoring and to reassess the need for CPME action in the future.

Several responses were received, indicating that the system has improved its functioning however there are challenges to address, such as the software and the additional regulatory steps required.

Independence of the medical profession

- ▶ The Board approved a survey on the independence of the medical profession for circulation to all members.

Following the discussion at the session on Patients, Principles and Ethics in March, a survey on the status of the independence of the medical profession has been prepared for circulation to all members, to capture recent challenges of various nature to professional autonomy. It is planned to present preliminary results at the general assembly in November.

EU Global Health Strategy

- ▶ The Board noted developments in the EU Global Health Strategy, which aims to enhance the EU's role in global health cooperation especially in neighbouring countries and the global south.

The secretariat will continue to monitor developments and report to the Board.

International calendar

- ▶ The Board took note of a concept note for a Doctor MEP Roundtable on 22 September 2023 to build on the successful exchanges in 2021. However, the date may need to be changed depending on the availability of MEPs.

Summer magazine focuses on better access to medicines

We are delighted to share the [latest edition](#) of our magazine, which emphasises that the ongoing revision of the EU's pharmaceutical legislation provides a unique opportunity to ensure access to affordable and safe medicines.

In his editorial our President, Dr Christiaan Keijzer, calls for a balanced dialogue to make sure the new legislative framework delivers for patients and Europe's healthcare systems. The topic of medicine [shortages](#) is particularly highlighted, with a survey of national medical associations revealing that shortages affecting nearly all types have become increasingly common across Europe. Our new [policy](#) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is featured, with key messages from a joint event organised with the Swedish Medical Association on addressing AMR in medical practice.

We are honoured to include an interview with MEP Tomislav Sokol, providing valuable insights on the ongoing discussions on the European Health Data Space (EHDS), and we highlight the [key points](#) for healthcare professions in the negotiations.

We also look ahead to the climax of the revision process of the EU's air quality directives as the trilogue between the EU institutions is expected to start in autumn. CPME [calls](#) for a full alignment of the EU rules with the WHO guidelines.

In news from our members, the Israeli Medical Association describes protests against the Israeli judicial reform and that a functional, ethical health system must be based on democracy and a strong, independent judiciary. The Croatian Medical Chamber report that 97% of Croatian doctors are dissatisfied with their legal status and how doctors organised a joint protest for government action. Our President reflects in his opening letter that it is vital to address the health workforce crisis before it escalates further.

We are privileged to have a guest article from Mental Health Europe on how our [call](#) for mental health in all policies is one step closer. Finally, the European Medical Students' Association highlights the value of incorporating the perspective of medical students in policy-making as the future of the healthcare workforce.

Call for rapporteurs

CPME is looking for new rapporteurs and chairs of the working groups:

- Rapporteur on Medical Devices
- Rapporteur on Refugee Health
- Chair of the Working Group on Healthy Living
- Chair for the Working Group on Climate Change
- Co-rapporteur on the independence of the medical profession

CPME members are welcome to propose experts, including those beyond their delegations to CPME if they can assist them in fulfilling their role (see Rules of Procedure) until **31 August 2023** by sending an expression of interest to secretariat@cpme.eu.

Rapporteur on Medical devices

We are looking for a co-rapporteur to provide expertise and support our policy work on medical devices, including through participation in meetings of the Medical Devices Coordination Group (MDCG).

CPME's focus on this dossier is to provide medical profession's perspective to the implementation process of the new Medical Devices Regulation, as well as ensuring continuous availability of medical devices. In the years to come, it will be important that high safety standards remain present in the EU regulatory framework. The European Commission launched several projects such as a survey on the implementation progress, a joint action on market surveillance, orphan devices support programme, focussed on paediatrics, and study on innovation and governance. The preparations for a revision of the updated framework have started.

A new co-rapporteur would join Dr Katrin Fjeldsted in supporting CPME secretariat.

CPME NEWS

Rapporteur on Refugee Health

CPME is seeking for a new rapporteur on refugee health, noting the increased interest in the topic in light of the rising numbers of refugees resulting i.a. from the war in Ukraine.

In the CPME statement on the medical treatment of refugees, CPME emphasises doctors' ethical responsibility for equitable care to all patients, irrespective of status. CPME also implements its policy on refugee doctors.

By joining CPME as a rapporteur, you will work alongside CPME secretariat to contribute to the development and implementation of effective policies in the field of refugee health.

Chair for the Working Group on Healthy Living

This WG is dealing mainly with alcohol, nutrition, and tobacco policies but it has also discussed other topics such as physical activity. Currently, it is drafting a policy on the health effects of cannabis. In the near future, it aims to contribute to the following EU's legislative processes: the introduction of European alcohol and front-of-pack nutrition labelling rules, the revision of the directives on tobacco products, taxation, and advertising. Moreover, CPME and a number of other organisations are developing a campaign on unhealthy food marketing.

Chair for the Working Group on Climate Change

This WG recently completed a policy on climate change and health. CPME keeps promoting this policy as it tackles various aspects of climate change, including the emissions of healthcare sector. CPME is also very active in the revision process of the EU air quality directives. The EU institutions are currently forming their position in order to start the trilogue negotiations. Finally, the annual Lancet Countdown process on climate change and health is expected to start soon. Since 2018, CPME has been co-publishing briefings and recommendations for EU policymakers.

CPME NEWS

Co-rapporteur on the independence of the medical profession

Following discussions at the CPME meetings in March, a survey will be carried out to map challenges to the independence of the medical profession in Europe. The co-rapporteur will cooperate with the responsible VP and secretariat to design and evaluate the survey for presentation at a forthcoming meeting. Members' requests for support in this matter will also be consulted with the rapporteurs.

CPME attends meeting of British Medical Association

The CPME Secretary General attended the British Medical Association's annual representatives meeting in Liverpool from 3–5 July. Bringing together delegates from across the UK, the meeting discussed a wide variety of issues in particular the situation of the medical workforce and its conditions of practice, but also relating to public health, in particular alcohol and tobacco control, or transversal topics such as equity. The meeting also saw a handover of presidency from Prof. Martin McKee to Professor Sir Ian Gilmore.

MONITORING

The Secretariat monitors the news and uploads [weekly monitoring reports](#) the members' section of the website. In the following pages we include a selection of the most relevant news items.

Professional Practice and Health Systems

Evaluation study of the work of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (EXPH)

The Commission has published a comprehensive [report](#) that evaluates the performance of the "Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (EXPH)." This study thoroughly examines the effectiveness, efficiency, and coherence of the EXPH, aiming to assess its current format, rules of procedure, and working methods.

Access to health care in EU countries for persons displaced from Ukraine

According to a follow-up [survey and report](#) by the Commission and European Observatory, the practical implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive regarding health care coverage and access for displaced persons from Ukraine in their host EU countries has resulted in potential health care access gaps. Interviews conducted by UNHCR and responses from over 22,000 individuals indicate that one in four displaced persons encountered difficulties accessing the health care system when needed (March 2023). The main reasons for these difficulties included long waiting times (67%), language barriers (34%), and financial constraints (25%). Additionally, some respondents reported being denied access (16%), lacking information (13%), facing limited availability (12%), or lacking necessary documentation (5%) (March 2023).

Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

EU steps up action to prevent shortages of antibiotics for next winter

The European Commission, the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) are [issued recommendations](#) for actions to avoid shortages of key antibiotics used to treat respiratory infections for European patients in the next winter season. Based on the data collected, if the winter season's demand remains similar to the average consumption of previous years, the supply of oral formulations of essential antibiotics for respiratory infections in the EU is projected to meet the demand.

Commission decides to refer Poland to Court of Justice of the European Union for prohibition of advertising of pharmacies and their activities

The European Commission has [referred](#) Poland to the Court of Justice of the European Union due to a Polish law that prevents pharmacies from advertising their services. This law violates the E-commerce Directive and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Commission argues that while some restrictions are acceptable for public health reasons, a total ban harms market competitiveness and prevents the development of beneficial modern services. .

Reflection paper on the use of artificial intelligence in the lifecycle of medicines

European Medicines Agency (EMA) has released a [draft reflection paper](#) that discusses the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in promoting the safe and effective development, regulation, and use of human and veterinary medicines. This paper is currently open for public consultation and covers AI and machine learning (ML) principles throughout the entire medicines' lifecycle, spanning from drug discovery to post-authorisation activities.

Public Health and Disease Prevention

European Parliament adopts a position on the Nature Restoration Law

On 12 July, MEPs had a tight [vote](#) (with 336 votes in favour, 300 against) on the EU nature restoration law, underlining that restoring the ecosystem is key to combating climate change and biodiversity loss, and reduces risks to food security. Particularly the Parliament's EPP group tried to vote down this law already in the ENVI Committee's vote in June but did not succeed in the end. CPME is following closely the revision of the EU air quality directives. The Parliament's plenary vote on that file was postponed from this week to September, and it is expected that the majority of the EPP members will vote against also this part of the European Green Deal.

WHO Declaration of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

On 7 July, the ministers of the WHO European Region convened in Budapest at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and adopted a [declaration](#) with a specific set of actions to better prepare health systems to tackle the impact of climate change, reduce the health effects of pollution, and integrate nature and biodiversity considerations into environment and health policies, which means taking a holistic approach to human, animal and planetary health.

COVID-19: Parliament adopts roadmap to better prepare for future health crises

The European Parliament has [adopted](#) a roadmap to improve EU's preparedness for future health crises, emphasising strategic autonomy for medicines, transparency in procurement, and stronger parliamentary oversight. The roadmap, formulated by the Special Committee on COVID-19, also encourages the use of recovery funds to fortify the single market and foster better global coordination through upcoming international pandemic treaty. The detailed recommendations are available [here](#).

MONITORING

MEPs push for better safety and quality standards for substances of human origin

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) [adopted](#) its position on new rules governing the use of so-called substances of human origin (SoHO) in the EU. European MEPs advocate compensation for living donors and strict advertising regulations for Substances of Human Origin (SoHO) donations. They suggest implementing national emergency plans and a digital communication channel to monitor SoHO availability. Additionally, they call for the creation of an EU critical SoHOs list and a roadmap to ensure their availability.

EMCDDA: Drug-related hospital emergencies in Europe

New [analysis](#) by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) reveals the prevalence of drug-related emergencies in Europe, with thousands of individuals requiring medical assistance each year. The report, "European Drug Emergencies Network (Euro-DEN Plus): data and analysis," highlights cocaine as the most commonly reported drug in these cases, predominantly affecting males. Polydrug use is widespread, and younger individuals (under 25 years) are more commonly affected in the southern and eastern regions of Europe. .

West Nile virus transmission season in Europe

As of 30 June 2023, the European Union, European Economic Area, and neighbouring countries have [reported](#) the highest number of locally acquired West Nile virus infection cases since the peak epidemic year of 2018, with 1,340 cases and 104 deaths documented in 2022.

MONITORING

EESC opinions on child obesity and mental health

On 12 July, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted opinions on [measures to reduce child obesity](#) and on [measures to improve mental health](#). The first one urges the European Commission and the European Parliament to play a more proactive role to reduce childhood obesity and calls for the 2014–2020 EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity to be renewed. It also notes that most national restrictions on promoting and advertising food and non-alcoholic beverages to children are too weak and that existing voluntary approaches are not enough to protect children and adolescents.

The latter opinion encourages reforming EU health systems for mental health by focusing on prevention, early detection, and community-based care. It recommends that the Commission's new Comprehensive Plan on Mental Health is swiftly transposed in an EU Mental Health Strategy.

MONITORING

Digital Health

New EU–U.S. Data Privacy Framework and Website Now Effective for Cross–Border EU Personal Data Transfers to the United States

On July 10, the European Commission [adopted](#) the EU–U.S. Data Privacy Framework, ensuring an adequate level of protection for EU personal data transferred to the U.S. It introduces new safeguards limiting U.S. intelligence services' access to EU data and establishes a Data Protection Review Court for EU individuals. U.S. companies importing EU data must comply with obligations, including data deletion when no longer necessary. Starting 17 July 2023, the new Framework [website](#) is live for use by new participants and former Privacy Shield Companies. You can read the blog article about the website [here](#).

European Data Protection Board (EDPB) published an information note on data transfers under the GDPR to the United States, please find the note from this [link](#).

European Commission adopts new indicators to monitor Member States' progress in digital transformation

On Friday 30 June, the European Commission [adopted indicators](#) for monitoring the EU's digital transformation, including on eHealth records and eID. These indicators should provide guidance to Member States on how they should structure their national roadmaps to achieve the targets of Digital Decade 2030. These indicators should make it possible to measure developments in the area of digital transformation within the EU, particularly with regard to objectives for digital infrastructure, skills, businesses and public services. An initial progress report should be published by the Commission after the summer of 2023. EU Member States will have to adopt their respective national roadmaps by 9 October. Please [see implementing decision](#) and [annex](#).

Patients, Principles and Ethics

Oncological right to be forgotten remains an unresolved issue in the EU

Spain has become the seventh EU country to recognise the ['right to be forgotten'](#) for former cancer patients, prohibiting discrimination in financial services based on a prior cancer diagnosis. The move aligns with a 2021 European Parliament resolution that seeks to enforce this right across all EU member states by 2025. Currently, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Spain grant this right, with varying 'forgotten' periods for medical conditions. The change is crucial as advancements in medicine have led to a growing number of long-term cancer survivors.

The European Parliament has adopted a roadmap to improve EU's preparedness for future health crises, emphasising strategic autonomy for medicines, transparency in procurement, and stronger parliamentary oversight. The roadmap, formulated by the Special Committee on COVID-19, also encourages the use of recovery funds to fortify the single market and foster better global coordination through upcoming international pandemic treaty.

Widening inequities, declining trust – they are inextricably linked, with significant impacts on health, finds new WHO/Europe report

A WHO/Europe [report](#) reveals decreasing trust between people and institutions, including governments, in the European Region, posing a threat to pan-European unity. The study, "Transforming the health and social equity landscape: promoting socially just and inclusive growth to improve resilience," correlates growing health and social inequalities with increased insecurity and reduced trust. Conducted by WHO's European Office for Investment for Health and Development along with key global agencies, the report finds that when people perceive government policies as unfair, their trust declines.

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