



Dear colleagues

In April, the final plenary sessions of the current European Parliament took place with votes on three of CPME's priority dossiers. We reacted to the adoption of the provisional trilogue agreements on the [European Health Data Space](#) (EHDS) and the revision of the [Ambient Air Quality Directives](#) (AAQD). In addition, we published a [press release](#) on the Parliament reports on the revision of the EU General Pharmaceutical Legislation and provided recommendations for future negotiations, which will continue into the next mandate.

CPME has been highly active on these topics, and the fact that our positions and amendments were taken into account by policymakers on all three files is a testament to our ongoing engagement.

Now all eyes turn to the European elections, as we continue to disseminate our [call](#) for continued EU commitment to health. We invite you to read about this and much more in this month's edition.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer

CPME President



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors meeting – 25 April 2024

▶ Finances	3
▶ Policies	4

CPME News

▶ European Doctors welcome adoption of provisional agreement on the EHDS	6
▶ Electronic Health Record Systems need to be Feasible, Functional and Findable	6
▶ Good, but room for improvement: European doctors' reaction to pharmaceutical legislation reform	7
▶ The EU Healthy Air Coalition welcomes European Parliament vote for cleaner air and better health	8
▶ CPME contributes to high level conference on Healthcare-related needs as drivers for healthcare policy and innovation	8
▶ European doctors warn of threats to independence of medical profession	9
▶ Call for right to clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in European Convention of Human Rights	10
▶ New infographic on tobacco industry presence in EU policy-making	11
▶ Coalition for vaccination: the benefits of childhood vaccination	11
▶ CPME endorses WMA resolution on protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza	12
▶ Webinar on the Role of the Healthcare Sector in Climate Resilience on 13 May	13
▶ CPME/PGEU Conference on Shortages of medicines, medical devices and healthcare professionals	13
▶ Meeting reports	14

Monitoring

▶ EU Political Outlook & Digital Health	17
▶ Professional Practice and Health Systems & Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare	18
▶ Public Health and Disease Prevention	20

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 25 APRIL 2024

Finances

Draft accounts January to March 2024

- ▶ The Board took note of the draft actual accounts, noting that expenditure is proceeding as planned.

Payment schedule membership fees

- ▶ The Board approved a request from the German Medical Association for a different payment schedule in 2025.

Policies

MedTechEurope request for input on HCPs factsheets

- ▶ CPME decided to decline a request from MedTechEurope to comment on two info sheets for healthcare professionals on medical devices symbols and on electronic instructions for use for medical doctors (eIFU).

Survey on Substances of Human Origin (SOHO)

- ▶ The Board decided to share a future survey on Substances of Human Origin SoHOs by the European Blood Alliance (EBA) with CPME members and European Medical Organisations targeted at professionals using SoHOs in hospital settings at both management and operational/clinical levels.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 25 APRIL 2024

Guidance document on traceability of medicines in hospital settings

- ▶ The Board decided to adopt a response to a draft Council of Europe Guidance Document on Traceability of Medicines in Hospital Settings.

Survey on Training Needs and Gaps on Medical Countermeasures

- ▶ The Board decided to adopt a draft response to a HERA Survey on Training Needs and Gaps on Medical Countermeasures

i2X Project invitation

- ▶ The Board agreed that the Secretariat launches a call for interest among CPME membership for experts to participate in this project and a call for interest to be part of a sub-group, within the WG Digital Health, to comment and respond to the deliverables of the project.

The project could help support members with the implementation process of the European Health Data Space. The final decision on CPME participation will be pending expert participation, as well as the exact CPME involvement and contractual features such as financing.

General Pharmaceutical legislation

- ▶ The Board took note that the European Parliament adopted its position to the pharma package on 10 April.

Overall, the reports have taken up a large number of CPME amendments, i.a. on medicine shortages and strengthening security of supply, especially by proposing earlier notifications, and an obligation to have shortage prevention plans in place for all medicines. Also, improved communication about shortages and alternatives for prescribers is foreseen.

Since the Council is still defining its own position on the pharma package, the trilogues between the EU institutions will not start this year. Also, the new European Parliament may not necessarily support the reports approved by the current Parliament.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 25 APRIL 2024

EU Air Quality Directives

- ▶ The Board noted that on 24 April the European Parliament plenary approved the provisional political agreement reached with the Council on new measures to improve air quality in the EU, with 381 votes in favor, 225 against and 17 abstentions.

CPME and the newly formed EU Healthy Air Coalition published a [reaction](#). Next, as a final step, the law must be formally adopted by the Council.

European Health Data Space

- ▶ The Board noted that on 24 April the European Parliament plenary approved the provisional political agreement reached with the Council on the European Health Data Space.

CPME issued a [press release](#) welcoming the adoption. The Council will still take a few months to formally endorse the final text, which is expected to be published in the EU Official Journal in autumn.

MedTechEurope survey on electronic instructions for use for near patient testing In Vitro Diagnostics devices

- ▶ The Board noted that the Secretariat did not pursue an invitation by MedTechEurope to disseminate their survey on electronic instructions for use (IFU) for near patient testing In Vitro Diagnostics devices (IVD).

WMA Council Resolution on the protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza

- ▶ The Board decided to endorse the WMA Council [Resolution](#) on the protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza, which was approved at the 226th WMA Council session in Seoul, Korea earlier in April 2024.

European Doctors welcome adoption of provisional agreement on the European Health Data Space

CPME [welcomed](#) the adoption of the provisional agreement on the European Health Data Space by the European Parliament plenary. The complex file and the intense negotiations have led to an overall balanced text in a fragmented legal landscape. We welcome the staged approach to the implementation of the regulation as well as the commitment to involve direct users in the implementation process, namely healthcare professionals and patients.

European Doctors remain concerned over the administrative burden for healthcare professionals and call for appropriate funding and capacity building. We also highlight the need to safeguard the principles of patient confidentiality and professional secrecy.

Electronic Health Record Systems need to be Feasible, Functional and Findable

CPME has [published](#) a statement calling for healthcare professionals to be involved in the conception and design of Electronic Health Record Systems to ensure trust, usability and collaboration between patients and healthcare providers. Following the provisional agreement on the EHDS, electronic health record (EHR) systems will be vital to ensure an efficient clinical IT framework for the doctor, and local teams.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said “The EHR should support trust, transparency and collaboration between patients and healthcare providers. The EHR systems must be designed in a user-friendly way to support healthcare professionals in their tasks and reduce administrative work. Existing national access and coding protocols need to be taken into account to avoid disruption and increased workload. Doctors, as direct users, must have an active role in the development, implementation, and governance system of the EHR.”

Good, but room for improvement: European doctors' reaction to pharmaceutical legislation reform

CPME [welcomed](#) the European Parliament reports of the revision of the EU General Pharmaceutical Legislation and provided recommendations for future negotiations to guarantee accessibility and effectiveness of medicines for patients.

We welcome the strong focus on addressing medicine shortages and strengthening security of supply, especially by proposing earlier notifications, and an obligation to have shortage prevention plans in place. Improved communication about shortages and alternatives for prescribers is also a good development. Nevertheless, the security of supply could be further improved by establishing mandatory safety stocks of critical medicines at the company level.

Second, access to medicines for patients should not be determined by where they live. Therefore, we welcome the obligation for marketing authorisation holders to, in good faith, file for pricing and reimbursement of a medicine upon a request by a Member State as a step towards more equitable access for patients.

Third, the European Parliament position gives room to Member States to choose if the package leaflet should only be available online. While digitalisation offers opportunities to enhance information delivered to patients, we strongly believe that the electronic product information should never replace the paper version included in medicine packets, but remain complementary.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said "We are hopeful that the pharmaceutical package reform contributes to more sustainable healthcare systems and helps patients to have timely access to the medicines they need. Addressing medicines shortages and security of supply is paramount.

"We also need an effective approach to antibiotic innovation. We believe the Transferable Exclusivity Voucher is not the way forward and are encouraged to see that other solutions are on the table."

The EU Healthy Air Coalition welcomes European Parliament vote for cleaner air and better health

The European Parliament adopted on 24 April by a large majority – with 381 in favour, 225 against, and 17 abstentions – the provisional trilogue agreement on the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQD), to update the EU’s clean air standards dating from 2008.

The EU Healthy Air Coalition, representing medical doctors, healthcare professionals, patient organisations and health insurers, welcomes the support for people’s health shown by MEPs today, and calls on member states to confirm the trilogue deal speedily, to set the EU on the path for improved air quality.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said “All national medical associations across Europe agree we need better air quality, and public authorities and national governments need to act. Hundreds of thousands premature deaths in Europe are attributable to air pollution every year. CPME welcomes the forthcoming finalisation of the EU air quality standards and looks forward to working together for its most health protective implementation.”

Read the full reaction from CPME partners in the EU Healthy Air Coalition [here](#).

CPME contributes to high level conference on Healthcare- related needs as drivers for healthcare policy and innovation

CPME’s Vice President Dr Ole Johan Bakke addressed the Belgian Presidency Conference on health-related needs as drivers for healthcare policy and innovation saying that “We have to identify patient groups with unmet needs and prioritise them in how we organise and finance our healthcare systems. There are groups of patients having the unlucky combination of not being able to request healthcare and having few stakeholders speaking for them.”

European doctors warn of threats to independence of medical profession

CPME has published a [statement](#) highlighting increasing challenges to the independence of the medical profession reported by national medical associations across Europe. This causes a threat to doctors, patients and society as a whole if it is not safeguarded and reinforced.

The challenges take many forms. Individual doctors have faced governmental pressure to break patient-doctor confidentiality and report names of patients seeking their care.

Financial actors without medical background or mandate are accessing the ownership and governance of medical facilities as capital investors, skewing patient care to maximise profit and restricting doctors in their clinical practice.

Organised representation of doctors voicing their opposition to government policy have faced retaliation, such as the loss of mandatory membership, dismissal of their leadership, or in the most extreme cases even [imprisonment](#). In addition, [restrictions](#) on collective action seriously limits the ability to take industrial action.

Our vision is that doctors can practice free from undue interference of administration, economy or insurances. This is key to a trustworthy patient-doctor relationship. Clinical independence allows doctors to act in a patient's best interest and is balanced by accountability for a decision.

We believe that the independence of the medical profession strengthens democracy. As a profession we need to stand together to identify and oppose threats to safeguard the best possible patient care

Call for right to clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in European Convention of Human Rights

CPME [joined](#) civil society organisations, social movements, and Indigenous Peoples Organizations by signing a letter calling for the swift recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment through an additional Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The adverse impacts of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss can be felt by all people living in the Member States of the Council of Europe. For example, across the continent, more than 300,000 people die prematurely every year due to atmospheric pollution.

The [letter](#) outlines that the explicit protection of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment under the European Convention of Human Rights would clarify States' positive obligations to undertake protection measures and policies.

Under a legally binding Protocol, the protection of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment would send a powerful message both at national and international level, demonstrating and reaffirming Member States' commitment to addressing the triple planetary crisis. It would also send an unequivocal message of solidarity to environmental and human rights defenders who currently pay a grave price for their advocacy.

Faced with unprecedented crises, the time is now for the Council of Europe to fulfill and reaffirm its mandate to promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in all Member States by recognising and protecting the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment through the adoption of a Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

New infographic on tobacco industry presence in EU policy-making

On 3 April, the Smoke Free Partnership (SFP) published the [2023 edition of the Infographic on the Declared Tobacco Industry Presence in the EU Policy-Making Environment](#). Tobacco industry interference remains the largest obstacle to the implementation of effective tobacco control policies in Europe and worldwide.

SFP has been monitoring the EU Transparency Register to identify and measure the representation of tobacco industry interests. The objective is to shed light on the human and economic resources of the tobacco industry and its allies, who are lobbying the EU institutions.

However, as it is based on the voluntary EU transparency Register, it does not present an exhaustive picture of the lobbying activities of the tobacco industry. CPME is a partner of the SFP Coalition.

Coalition for vaccination: the benefits of childhood vaccination

The Coalition for Vaccination co-chaired by CPME, the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), calls on the EU policy makers to keep vaccination high on the political agenda.

The Coalition for Vaccination also calls on healthcare professionals to ensure that children are up-to-date on their routine vaccines, in the effort to limit the current increase in vaccine-preventable diseases in infants and children. The press release can be found [here](#).

The ECDC published [reports](#) supporting these demands, and the EU and WHO have joined forces in a [project](#) to enhance immunisation coverage among vulnerable populations.

CPME endorses World Medical Association resolution on protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza

CPME [endorses](#) the resolution adopted at the 226th WMA Council session in Seoul, Korea on 20 April 2024.

In response to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza, the WMA is gravely concerned by the deepening healthcare and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the growing starvation and the lack of medical care and deeply concerned about the continued imprisonment and abuse of hostages.

The WMA Council and its constituent members call for:

1. A bilateral, negotiated and sustainable ceasefire in order to protect all civilian life, secure the release and safe passage of all hostages and to allow the transfer of humanitarian aid for all those in need.
2. The immediate and safe release of all hostages.
3. Pending their release, humanitarian aid and healthcare attention to be provided to the hostages.
4. All parties to abide by international humanitarian law and the principle of medical neutrality to safeguard the rights and protection of healthcare facilities, healthcare personnel and patients from further threat, interference and attack.
5. Unimpeded and accelerated humanitarian access throughout all of Gaza, including the entry of humanitarian aid and safe passage of medical personnel. This also includes the evacuation of urgent medical cases to reduce secondary morbidity and mortality, public health risks, and alleviate pressure on hospitals inside Gaza.
6. The re-establishment of access to healthcare and the creation of a safe working environment for healthcare personnel to work in through the restoration of medical capacity and essential services.
7. Verified investigations into alleged gross violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law including attacks on healthcare staff and facilities and the misuse of those facilities for military purposes.
8. The upholding by physicians of the principles in the WMA Declaration of Geneva and other documents that serve as guidance for medical personnel during times of conflict.

Webinar on the Role of the Healthcare Sector in Climate Resilience, 13 May

On 13 May, CPME will co-organise a webinar on the role and responsibility of different actors of the healthcare system in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The discussion will be based on the new European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) report and the European Commission Communication on Managing Climate Risks. The event is done in cooperation with four other health organisations and the European Commission. Please find the agenda and a link to register [here](#).

CPME/PGEU Conference on Shortages of medicines, medical devices and healthcare professionals

On 11 June, CPME is organising jointly with the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) a conference on the critical issue of shortages in medicines, medical devices, and healthcare workforce.. The event will take place at the NH Amsterdam Leidseplein – Conference Room in Amsterdam. See the agenda [here](#).

Please register for the conference [here](#), by selecting the "10:00 – 17:15 Annual Conference *" option on June 11th. Additionally, if you wish, you can also register for the "19:00 – 22:00 Gala dinner *" on the same day. The link to book your [accommodation](#) is provided at the beginning of the registration form and should be completed by 11 May.

Meeting Reports

Belgian EU Presidency Conference – Ensuring healthy diets for better nutrition for all

The Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Ghent University organised a conference which brought together a diverse group of stakeholders engaged in food, nutrition, and health issues within the context of international development. The conference addressed progress made, effective approaches and policy frameworks, and also requirements to accelerate efforts and effective partnerships in the field of healthy diets in the EU. Please find the link to the report [here](#).

Belgian EU Presidency Conference – Unlocking resilience in Europe & Belgium through climate & environment risk assessments

CPME attended the Belgian EU Presidency conference which also served as a launch event of the Belgian Climate and Environment Risk Assessment Center (CERAC). The event highlighted and discussed the critical findings of the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) report. Please find the link to the report [here](#).

Healthy cities, healthy people – Pathways for clean air in the EU's urban environments

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and the Belgian Independent Health Insurance Funds (MLOZ) organised a conference under the auspices of the Belgian EU Presidency. The event brought together EU and urban decision-makers, health stakeholders, scientists and civil society. It aimed to identify pathways to reach good air quality on the eve of the 2024 EU elections, and next EU policy cycle 2024-2029. Please find the link to the report [here](#).

Belgian EU Presidency Symposium – Experiences and perspectives on front-of-pack nutrition labelling systems

The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU hosted a scientific symposium which brought together high-level experts, policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers from all over Europe. The event explored diverse perspectives on Nutri-Score and other voluntary front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition labelling systems already introduced in some EU countries to get consumers more involved and encourage them to make balanced food choices. Please find the link to the report [here](#).

Belgian EU Presidency Conference on the Future EU Health Union

The High-Level Conference on the Future EU Health Union, held on 26 and 27 March 2024 in Brussels facilitated a comprehensive reflection process on the future EU health agenda. Organised by the Belgian presidency of the Council of the EU, the conference convened Ministers of Health, policymakers, and experts to discuss potential new priorities for the next EU Commission.

During the conference, Vice President Dr. Martin Balzan articulated his vision for Europe's medical workforce: More, Better, and Happier. He underscored pressing issues such as burnout, violence, and excessive workloads faced by doctors across Europe, emphasizing the urgent need to address these challenges and prioritize doctors' well-being.

Furthermore, Dr. Balzan reiterated CPME's stance against any reduction in the minimum training requirements outlined in the Professional Qualifications Directive, emphasizing that compromising on qualifications and training standards due to a shortage of health professionals is unjustifiable.

Please find the link to the full report [here](#).

European Medicines Agency requests healthcare professional organisations to monitor medicine shortages

EMA’s Executive Steering Group on Shortages and Safety of Medicinal Products (MSSG) recommended to continue close monitoring of the availability of several antibiotics and medicines used for treatment of fever in children. EMA is requesting patient and healthcare professional organisations to report any early signals of disruptions in supply for these medicines.

We invite you to report any such shortages to CPME secretariat@cpme.eu so they can be passed on to EMA.

Antibiotic	Situation
Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid	<e.g. Member states X, Y, Z: limited/no availability of paediatric formulations requiring HCPs to switch to <X > as alternative antibiotic treatment >
Azithromycin	
Clarithromycin	
Cefotaxime	
Ceftriaxone	
Piperacillin/tazobactam	
Paracetamol and ibuprofen in formulations such as syrup and suppositories	
Cough syrups for children	

MONITORING

EU Political Outlook

Spring Eurobarometer shows rising interest in EU elections and health as a key priority

The European Parliament's [Spring 2024 Eurobarometer](#) reveals rising awareness and likelihood to vote from EU citizens compared to autumn 2023 and the survey held in Spring 2019 (three months prior to the previous European elections). Citizens would like to see the fight against poverty and social exclusion (33%) as well as supporting public health (32%) as the main issues during the electoral campaign. Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs, as well as EU defence and security are both in third place (on 31%).

Digital Health

Report on the Digital Health landscape of the WHO Europe region

The WHO [report](#) presents the digital health strategies (policies and tools) used by the WHO member states to reshape their healthcare systems. It details innovations in areas including telehealth, mobile health and Big Data, digital health governance, HER, patient portals, and analytics. The assessments aims at encouraging shared learning and identifying barriers and trends in the application of digital health.

WHO launches AI chatbots

The WHO has launched two digital tools: a Facebook Messenger chatbot and S.A.R.A.H (Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health). The Facebook chatbot was developed to offer accurate information on COVID-19 to limit disinformation on this topic. It is accessible on the official Facebook page and through the dedicated Messenger [link](#). [S.A.R.A.H](#) was developed to help people optimise their health and well-being. The AI is trained to adapt its information to the emotions and needs of the person inquiring information. Although promising at first, the AI has received major criticism regarding its accuracy, and functioning. The WHO is contemplating taking it down.

MONITORING

Professional Practice and Health Systems

The Council invites EU countries to ratify the ILO Convention

The Council has adopted a [decision](#) inviting members states to ratify the ILO convention 1990. The parts to be ratified concern the improvement of the working environment to protect workers' safety and health and safeguard equality between men and women in matters of employment.

New law and policy portal to advance implementation of the Global health and care workers compact

The Global health and care workers [law and policy lap](#) are a digital platform and tool which comprise of national and international legal instruments and resources to support countries in strengthening policies and operations regarding health and care workers.

This arises following the demand in 2021 from member states to develop a compilation of international human rights labour and humanitarian instruments to protect health and care workers and ensure their rights.

Ten focus areas have been identified within four domains: preventing harm, providing support, ensuring inclusivity, and safeguarding rights. These are the four domains through which the governments can improve the work environments and rights of health and care workers.

Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

Authorisation of a new antibiotic: Embleveo

Following the [recommendations](#) from the EMA, the Commission adopted the [authorisation](#) of a new antibiotic called Embleveo. This new antibiotic can be used to treat complicated intra-abdominal and urinary track infections, hospital-acquired pneumonia, and drug resistant bacterial infections. Embleveo will help treat infections from aerobic Gram-negative bacteria which are resistant to many of the currently available antibiotics.

MONITORING

EMA published new recommendations to strengthen supply chains of critical medicines

The EMA published [recommendations](#) developed by the EMA's Medicines Shortages Steering group (MSSG) to address vulnerabilities in the production and delivery of medicines included in the Union list of critical medicines and strengthen their supply chain. The recommendations address manufacturing, demand and supply, monitoring, prevention plans and scientific and regulatory support.

Evaluation of the reprocessing and reuse of single-use-devices (SUDs) in Member States

DG SANTE conducted a study to evaluate how provisions established in the Medical Devices Regulation have been implemented in European countries and how these provisions operate. The [report](#) presents an overview of national decisions regarding the reprocessing of SUD, the reprocessing of SUDs by manufacturers and health institutions, and lastly the reuse of purchased reprocessed SUDs by health institutions. The report also presents perceived challenges and opportunities, recommendations from stakeholders and conclusions for optimising the implementation of the MDR in Europe

New law on hazardous medicinal products enters into force

On 5 April, the Amending [Directive \(EU\) 2022/431](#) on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work was transposed into national law. CPME together with a group of other NGOs led by the European Biosafety Network (EBN) was [campaigning](#) to include carcinogenic cytotoxic drugs causing cancer in healthcare professionals in its Appendix I and reprotoxins harming workers' fertility in its title.

EBN has published a white paper '[Preventing contamination, exposure and health impacts for workers from hazardous medicinal products \(HMPs\) at work](#)' setting out the requirements of the new EU law for employers and national governments and what it means in practice for millions of workers and professionals engaged in healthcare, social care and veterinary practice

MONITORING

Public Health and Disease Prevention

MEPs want to enshrine the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

The [resolution](#) adopted demanding the amendment of Article 3 of the Charter, condemns any attempts to restrict or remove existing protections for sexual and reproductive health and rights and urges member states to decriminalise abortion in line with the [WHO guidelines](#). The Parliament also highlights that abortion methods and procedures should be an obligatory part of the education for doctors and medical students. The MEPs additionally call upon the Commission to exclude EU funding to anti-gender and anti-choice groups.

European State of the Climate 2023 Report

In 2023, the climate crisis and related extreme weather event were declared a public health emergency by the WHO. Overall, the [report](#) highlights rising temperatures over land and sea, leading to heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and floodings. In addition, the number of adverse health impacts related to extreme weather and climate event rose, and heat-related deaths increased in 94% of the European regions monitored. The report calls for proactive, timely and effective adaptation to reduce risks to human health.

UK House of Commons votes for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

On 16 April, the [Tobacco and Vapes Bill](#) was approved with 383 votes in favour, and 67 against. This legislation introduces the measure of gradually increasing the legal age to buy tobacco from 2027 onwards to create a Smoke-Free-Generation. All individuals born on or after 1 January 2009, will never be allowed to purchase tobacco products legally in the UK. Now the Bill moves to the Committee stage, then a final vote in the House of Commons takes place before moving to the House of Lords.

MONITORING

Assessment of the drivers and impact of chemical pollution in Europe

The European Environment Agency published a [report](#) on the transition towards safer chemicals for human health and the environment. The assessment analyses the challenges in eliminating harmful substances, limiting chemical emissions and their health impact. The report stresses out the need for continuous efforts, and recommends biomonitoring as a key tool to measure the effectiveness of chemicals legislation.

Assessment of the progress of continuum of HIV care

The ECDC [report](#) presents data findings related to the continuum of HIV care in 53 countries of Europe and Central Asia. The report analysed the progress made towards the 95–95–95 targets: in the European Region, 83% of people living with HIV were diagnosed, 84% of those diagnosed were on treatment, and 93% of those in treatment were virally suppressed. From these conclusions, the ECDC recommends to continue the testing efforts but to scale-up treatment of care.

Report on measures to mitigate risks of the avian influenza

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a [report](#) on measures that could mitigate avian influenza in the European Union. It notes the potential for avian influenza viruses to adapt to humans and cause a pandemic. Ongoing vigilance, preparedness efforts and an increased understanding of underlying drivers are therefore crucial.

Recommendations of an adapted seasonal flu vaccine for 2024/2025

Currently, most influenza vaccines are formulated to protect against the 4 main strands of influenza. However, since 2020, one of these (the B/Yamagata strain of influenza) has not been detected in circulation. It is no more considered a threat to public health. The [recommendations](#) approved by the EMA's human medicines committee in March 2024 advise a transition to a trivalent composition for all influenza vaccines for the 2025/2026 season.

MONITORING

WHO's new mental health guidance

WHO published a new comprehensive diagnostic [manual](#) for mental, behavioural, and neurodevelopment disorders.

Designation of six European reference laboratories for public health

The commission adopted the [designation](#) of the first six European reference laboratories (EURLs) for public health. This decision was taken in the effort to strengthen the EU's defences in the event of serious cross-border health threats. The EURLs will cover the following areas: AMR in bacteria, vector-borne viral pathogens, emerging, rodent-borne, and zoonotic viral pathogens, high-risk, emerging, and zoonotic bacterial pathogens, legionella, diphtheria, and pertussis. They will bring together scientific data from across the EU to improve preparedness, rapid detection, and response.

New EU rules to improve urban waste treatment and reuse

MEPs approved [new EU rules](#) for the collection, treatment, and discharge of urban wastewater. Urban wastewater will undergo secondary treatment before it is discharged into the environment by 2035, and tertiary treatment will be implemented in all wastewater treatment plants by 2039–2045. In addition, by 2045, an additional treatment will be applied for all plants to remove micro-pollutants. 481 voted in favour, 79 voted against and 26 abstained. The next step is its formal approval by the Council.

EDITORIAL BOARD**Sarada Das**

Secretary General

Sara Roda

Senior EU Policy Adviser

Markus Kujawa

EU Policy Adviser

Diogo Teixeira Pereira

EU Policy Adviser

Anniina Hentinen

Junior EU Policy Adviser

EDITORS**Calum MacKichan, Ph.D.**

Communication Officer

Lourette Boutin

Maastricht Intern

CONTACT

For feedback, further information, questions or to contribute to future editions, please contact:

Calum MacKichan

calum.mackichan@cpme.eu

Rue Guimard 15

1040 Brussels, Belgium

T: +32 2732 72 02

E: secretariat@cpme.eu

www.cpme.eu

EU Transparency register: 9276943405-41

RLE BRUSSELS: 0462509658

FOLLOW US[TWITTER](#)[LINKEDIN](#)[YOUTUBE](#)