



Photo: Yvan Glavie

Participants at the CPME event in the European Parliament on 20 March

Dear colleagues

This edition follows our Board and General Assembly meetings held in Brussels from 20 to 22 March. The meetings were rich and productive as we set our policy priorities for next Board mandate, thank you for your active contributions.

Our event bringing doctors from 30 countries to the European Parliament was a landmark moment, and we will use the outcomes of the meeting to continue our engagement as the Parliament will now start work on a report on the health workforce (see page 7).

Another key outcome was our policy on implementing a user-friendly' European Health Data Space, published on the day that the EHDS Regulation entered into force. In this regard, we are pleased to report that the i2X project kicked off at the start of April (see page 9). We welcome you to read all this and more in this month's edition.

Dr Ole Johan Bakke
CPME President



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Internal Affairs

Resignation ABSyM/BVAS

- The Board acknowledged the resignation letter sent by Association Belge des Syndicats Médicaux (ABSyM) / Belgische Vereniging van Artsen Syndicaten (BVAS).

Mapping of Belgian medical associations

- The Board reviewed the landscape of national medical associations in Belgium.

It was suggested that CPME improves the visibility of its activities at national level, cooperating with NMAs to share CPME materials, and that an effort is made by NMA's to ensure that individual doctors are aware of CPME.

Draft General Assembly Agenda

- The Board took note of the draft agenda of the General Assembly and the planning for the event in the European Parliament which was going to take place later that afternoon.

CPME Priorities

- The Board took note of the different CPME priorities and no further remarks were made.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 20 MARCH 2025**Working Group Terms of Reference**

- ▶ The Board took note of the different Working Groups' terms of reference and no further remarks were made.

Nomination of Spanish chamber for Princess of Asturias Award 2025

- ▶ The Board considered the request to support the nomination but decided to decline. It was agreed that the project presented was a worthy cause, however there was a lack of link between CPME and the award context.

Finances**Draft final accounts 2024 and draft budget 2025**

- ▶ The Board reviewed the outcome of the external audit and closed the accounts 2024.

The closed accounts will be presented to the General Assembly for approval. The Board also confirmed the draft budget 2025 as to be formally approved by the General Assembly.

Policies

European Alcohol Health Alliance

- ▶ The Board decided to join the European Alcohol Health Alliance.

In December 2024, Dr Ole Johan Bakke attended a symposium “How can health professionals work together to reduce alcohol-related harms for the people of Europe?” organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) to discuss forming an alliance of European health professional organisations that will provide public health leadership for reducing alcohol-related harms in Europe. The launch of the alliance will take place in May 2025.

Fossil fuel advertising

- ▶ The Board discussed a proposal from a Dutch group of healthcare organisations arguing why CPME should take a stance on regulating fossil fuel advertising, include it in the recommendations of the CPME policy on commercial determinants of health, and issue a press release on the topic. The Board will make its decision based on the discussion members will have in the public health session on 21 March 2025.

Consultation on medical devices – electronic instructions for use

- ▶ The Board approved the draft response.

Statement on the call for evidence on the critical medicines act

- ▶ The Board took note of the published version of the CPME statement on the call for evidence on the critical medicines act which was finalised by the WG on pharmaceuticals on 17 February. The Board had previously delegated the decision at its webmeeting on 13 February.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 20 MARCH 2025

Feedback to the strategic report of the critical medicines alliance

- ▶ The Board took note of the published version of the CPME feedback to the strategic report of the critical medicines alliance which was finalised by the WG on pharmaceuticals on 17 February.

The Board had previously delegated the decision at its webmeeting on 13 February.

Implementing a 'user-friendly' European Health Data Space (EHDS): Guiding the integration of an intuitive electronic health record

- ▶ The Board took note of the additional comments in the REV5 version of the policy.

Following the Board meeting, the policy was discussed on 21 March at the policy session on digital health and was approved by the General Assembly on 22 March (see page 8).

Statement on medical devices

- ▶ The Board took note of the preparation of the draft statement on medical devices.

Following the Board meeting, the statement was discussed on 21 March at the policy session on pharmaceuticals and healthcare products and was approved by the General Assembly on 22 March.

CPME NEWS



Members conference in the European Parliament: Solutions for the European Health Workforce Crisis 20 March 2025

Doctors from 30 countries contributed to a discussion on sustainable solutions to the European health workforce crisis at an event hosted by MEP Dr András Kulja and MEP Tilly Metz. The press release is [here](#) and the video recording is [here](#).

MEP Dr András Kulja, said “European doctors, nurses and, above all, patients need more attention. The challenges are similar across Europe. That is why we need to act together, at EU level, because failure to do so could cost patients their lives and lead to a catastrophe.”

MEP Tilly Metz said “To address the shortage of healthcare workers, we need more cooperation, rather than competition. Careers in the health sector must be more attractive. We must improve working conditions that go well beyond salary. Support for mental health, digitalisation and occupational safety are equally important”

Dr Ole Johan Bakke, President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), added “The warning signs are clear: Europe’s health workforce is stretched thinner every year and is heading towards a breaking point that will impact patients and professionals alike. European countries share these problems and we need to cooperate on shared solutions.”

Implementing a user-friendly and intuitive electronic health record is the only way forward

On the day that the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation [entered](#) into force, CPME published a new [policy](#) which highlights the essential features needed for electronic health records (EHR) systems to meet the needs of healthcare professionals.

CPME President Dr Ole Johan Bakke said “European doctors call on the healthcare software industry to accept the challenge of placing EHR systems on the market that are verifiably user-friendly and functional. We also call for cooperation with national authorities to ensure a seamless integration of EHDS functionalities without additional costs to the healthcare professional. We want an EHR that works for the patient and the healthcare professional.”

Essential user-friendly features highlighted in the policy include:

- Seamless integration with other clinical software, to avoid healthcare professionals manually retyping the same information over again in different EHR systems;
- Automated clinical coding, using AI tools in background systems to quickly and accurately assign medical codes in the EHR to reduce the burden of coding and classifications for healthcare professionals.

CPME further recommends:

- Standard metrics to measure the usability of EHR systems for effectiveness, efficiency and healthcare professional satisfaction, as well as documentation burden;
- Information standards developed by healthcare professionals should be implemented by manufacturers.

CPME Vice President Dr Jacqueline Rossant-Lumbroso added “The EDHS requires planning, preparation and strong collaboration from healthcare professionals at national and European level. Member States must involve national medical associations in a meaningful and transparent way to ensure it meets clinicians’ and patients’ needs. CPME and its members are committed to make the EHDS work.”

i2X project launches to establish a common format for Electronic Health Records across the EU

CPME is a partner in the project – which stands for "Intelligent" Implementation of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF). It will, for the first time, connect electronic health record systems across Europe.

Funded by the European Commission with over €8 million, this initiative brings together 38 partners from 12 European Union Member States, marking a significant milestone in the development of the European Health Data Space.

Over the next four years, the initiative will launch 35 pilot projects in five key areas: e-prescriptions, lab and test results, patient summaries, medical imaging, and discharge reports. A total of 12 EU Member States – including the Netherlands, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain– will participate. Most will run pilot projects, some incorporating Artificial Intelligence-based technologies.

These pilot projects will test the real-world application of the new health data exchange format. By the end of the project, the goal is to increase patient access to their health data by 75% and improve the availability of high-quality, structured health data in electronic health records by up to 80%, both nationally and across borders.

Survey on medical confidentiality

The two-tier survey on medical confidentiality is ongoing. We thank all CPME members that have already responded to the survey and would kindly appeal for those that have not yet done so, to reply. CPME would be very grateful to receive your responses at your earliest convenience: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Medicalconfidentialitysurvey2024>

We also encourage you to disseminate the anonymous questionnaire to individual doctors. We would be very grateful for individual responses by Monday, 12 May 2025

CPME NEWS



Meeting with European Parliament President

MEP Roberta Metsola

On 19 March CPME had a second meeting with European Parliament President MEP Roberta Metsola. Dr Ole Johan Bakke, Dr Martin Balzan, and Sarada Das represented CPME on this occasion.

As the main topic of discussion, CPME presented the situation of the health workforce as the key priority for action, highlighting the members' conference on the same topic the following day. Dr Bakke appealed to the European Parliament to take the lead in advocating for European level cooperation in absence of any policy framework by the European Commission. CPME also offered its support to the forthcoming European Parliament own-initiative report on the health workforce, which will be prepared by the health and employment committees jointly in the coming months.

President Metsola expressed her support for action on this topic and took note of the data and report presented. She offered to facilitate outreach also to the Commission and Member States on the topic. CPME will follow up and is in contact with her cabinet to exchange policy messages.

CPME NEWS



CPME President spoke at conference on Unlocking Europe's Health Data Future Together

On 18 March, DG SANTE under the Polish Presidency organised high-level event “the European Health Data Space – Unlocking Europe's Health Data Future Together.” This significant event celebrated the adoption of the EHDS regulation, a key achievement in fostering collaboration and innovation through improved health data sharing across Europe.

CPME President, Dr Ole Johan Bakke, explained physicians’ main concerns about the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and how medical associations could help address these so that the EHDS ultimately supported daily practice. His contribution noted the need for tailor specific training for healthcare professionals on sharing health data for secondary purposes and on the EHDS.

He advocated for dialogue with national health services to put into place EHR systems that are user-friendly, robust, and efficient; that reduce administrative burdens for doctors; and to work together to increase the competence of clinicians in relation to the secondary use purposes, which include the communication with patients. His contribution inspired an audience of policymakers, health professionals, patient representatives, and industry leaders.

CPME NEWS



Dr Ludmila Lysinová, Dr Martin and Dr Fatmir Brahimaj with CPME President Dr Ole Johan Bakke

CPME thanks delegates who participated in their final meetings

On 22 March, Board of directors and Secretariat expressed gratitude to delegates who participated in their final meetings. CPME President Dr Ole Johan Bakke thanked to the delegates; Dr Ludmila Lysinová from Slovak Medical Chamber, Dr Martin Balzan from Medical Association of Malta and Dr Fatmir Brahimaj from Order of Physicians of Albania for their long-standing commitment and contributions over the years.

Spring magazine focuses on artificial intelligence in healthcare

Our [Spring magazine](#) opens with a message and editorial from our President, Dr Ole Johan Bakke. He outlines that global co-operation on health is more important than ever and sets out a vision to advance European doctors' voice in health policy-making.

In a feature on the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare our senior policy adviser Sara Roda explains our recommendations for AI to meet the needs of clinical practice. We also report three take-home messages on the use of technology in healthcare from a conference held to celebrate the Royal Dutch Medical Association's 175th anniversary.

We include an in-depth report of the EU Healthy Air Coalition's high-level conference at the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Javi López, which emphasised the critical role of strengthening disease prevention through clean air action. We include a guest article from the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), on the activities of the 2024 European Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm, which displayed a strong consensus among civil society organisations on the necessity of including health and nutritional information on alcohol labels.

Finally, Dr Otmar Kloiber, the Secretary General of the World Medical Association, provides an overview of the update of the Declaration of Helsinki which establishes ethical principles for research involving human beings. He extends his perspective to look ahead to the revision of the Declaration of Taipei on Ethical Considerations regarding Health Databases and Biobanks at a time when health research is increasingly conducted outside the classical clinical environment.

CPME honours Past President Prof. Dr Karsten Vilmar

On 10 April, CPME Secretary General Sarada Das attended a memorial service honouring the life and achievements of Prof. Dr Karsten Vilmar, Past President of CPME. He was also a longtime President and Honorary President of the German Medical Association and the German Medical Assembly. His vision for European solidarity and international cooperation is more relevant than ever.

FEATURE

Member News

In this month's feature, we have screened members' website to provide links to latest news from national medical associations.

Austrian Medical Chamber

The [Austrian Medical Chamber](#) published a [study](#) that reveals that only 62% of hospital physicians would choose the medical profession again, reflecting a significant decline in job satisfaction due to worsening working conditions. Many doctors report an increase in unpleasant work environments, with growing administrative tasks, time pressures, and insufficient technical support contributing to their dissatisfaction. Experts call for improved work-life balance, flexible scheduling, digital support, and a nationwide patient management system to alleviate the burden on healthcare professionals and enhance patient care.

Surveys on the topic "[Part-time work in hospitals – a necessary trend?](#)" emphasise the need for both part-time and full-time models to coexist, with improved working conditions to attract and retain physicians. Key issues include excessive bureaucracy, unfulfilled contract hours, and the challenge of balancing work with family care, with participants advocating for stable work schedules and more flexible transitions between part-time and full-time roles.

Bulgarian Medical Association

The [Bulgarian Medical Association](#) has restarted its #FightAnger [campaign](#) against violence towards healthcare professionals, offering training developed by psychologists to enhance doctors' skills in handling aggression, critical situations, and conflict resolution.

Danish Medical Association

The [Danish Medical Association](#) reports that the government's health [reform](#) bill worsens patient care, and reform aims to force doctors to take on more patients than they themselves estimate they have the capacity to handle. Five regional chairmen propose that the solution should be based on voluntariness and incentives to ensure medical coverage throughout the country.

FEATURE

Finnish Medical Association

The [Finnish Medical Association's](#) survey "[Physicians' working conditions and health survey: doctors' workweeks are long](#)" states doctors work longer workweeks than the average working population in Finland. The long workweeks, particularly in hospitals, contribute to increased stress, with one in five doctors at risk of burnout.

French Medical Council

The [French Medical Council](#) published a study of medical demographics in France which helps analyse the availability of healthcare, the territorial distribution of doctors, etc. The 2025 edition of the [Atlas](#) highlights a significant 1.7% increase in active doctors, with projections suggesting this growth will continue through 2040. However, recent INED studies show France's population is aging without major growth, requiring careful planning to meet future medical needs without triggering past concerns about doctor oversupply.

Norwegian Medical Association

[The Norwegian Medical Association](#) shared an article on their website "[Impact on a more just working situation for hospital doctors.](#)" They emphasise that they are continuously working to ensure that hospital doctors have a reasonable workload and a good working situation. In recent years, they have achieved success in a number of demands that will contribute to this. They are advocating to reduce workload intensity, enhance work-life balance, and ensure a more manageable work environment for doctors.

MONITORING

Political Outlook

EU Preparedness Union Strategy

On 26 March 2025, the European Commission released a [Joint Communication on the European Preparedness Union Strategy](#), emphasising the need for early-warning systems, thorough risk assessments, and coordinated crisis management. It explains how the EU Civil Protection Mechanism enables joint responses among member states during various emergencies including natural disasters, health crises, and other threats by gathering resources and expertise. Continuous training, modernised infrastructure, and advanced communication tools are highlighted as essential for enhancing readiness and response capabilities.

Additionally, attracting top research talent to Europe is essential for ensuring long-term resilience and preparedness. In this regard, the EU Talent Pool will simplify the process of recruiting skilled workers from beyond the Union, enabling experts in critical preparedness sectors to more easily access job opportunities.

Securing a reserve workforce from outside the EU is vital for long-term resilience and preparedness; by establishing an EU Talent Pool, the Union will simplify the recruitment of highly skilled professionals from abroad to fill critical roles in preparedness sectors.

Lastly, the European Commission aim to enhance the appeal of career paths in essential areas like civil protection, emergency services (including healthcare), and security by creating more partnership with Member States and social partners to ensure that skilled workers and volunteers can be rapidly deployed during emergencies are being

MONITORING

Public Health

Measles and Tuberculosis Cases Surge in Europe in 2024

- On 11 March, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published [collected data](#) on measles cases in the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA). Measles cases have significantly risen over the past 12 months, indicating ongoing circulation of the virus in the region. Based on the available data, 86% of those diagnosed with measles between the beginning of 2024 and early 2025 were not vaccinated, this means eight out of ten people who fell ill with measles during that period had not been immunised.
- On 14 March, the WHO and UNICEF published the [report](#), which reveals a concerning increase in measles cases across the European Region for 2024, with 127,350 cases reported, a dramatic rise from 2023 and the highest since 1997. According to an analysis children under 5 accounted for more than 40% of reported cases and more than half of reported cases required hospitalisation. WHO and UNICEF highlight that urgent action is needed from governments to close immunisation gaps, strengthen health systems, and reach marginalised communities
- On 24 March, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, released [the 2025 Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring report](#). The report highlights that children under 15 years of age accounted for 4.3% of those with new and relapsed tuberculosis (TB) in the WHO European Region, representing a worrying 10% surge in pediatric TB for 2023, compared to the previous year. A critical concern is that for one in five children with TB in the EU/EEA, it is unknown whether their treatment has been completed.

MONITORING

Health policies to tackle chronic diseases can have positive impacts within 5 years

On 24 March, the WHO published a new [study](#) The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, the study highlights 25 public health measures, known as "quick buys," that can improve health outcomes in as little as five years across the WHO European Region.

According to the study recommended measures are targeting risk factors such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity, include interventions like increasing taxes on tobacco and unhealthy foods, reformulating food products, and implementing nutrition labeling. These quick, cost-effective actions can significantly reduce the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and help countries meet 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Commission's proposal for a wine sector regulation

On 28 March, the European Commission [proposed](#) a range of measures on wine sector's competitiveness, including targeted measures to help the sector manage production potential, adapt to evolving consumer preferences, and unlock new market opportunities. Moreover, the Commission proposes electronic labelling of the nutrition declaration and the list of ingredients. CPME has [called](#) for years this information to be on the product's label, not online. The Commission's proposal does not mention public health.

MONITORING

Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare

European Commission reveals its Critical Medicine Act

The European Commission unveiled its Critical Medicine Act on 11 March 2025 and introduces several measures to enhance the security and availability of essential medicines within the EU, main points include:

- Establishing an investment framework to strengthen the EU's manufacturing capacity for critical medicines and active pharmaceutical ingredients (API). This includes allocating EU funds to support manufacturing projects, aiming to reduce relying on external suppliers and strengthen supply chain resilience.
- An emphasis on identifying and prioritising medicines considered critical for public health. By focusing on these essential medicines, the EU aims to ensure equitable access and address vulnerabilities.
- As EU public procurement for medicines has prioritised the lowest price, often from suppliers from countries like China and India. The Critical Medicines Act proposes revising this approach by implementing MEAT criteria, which consider multiple factors other than price. This shift aims to enhance the resilience of the EU's medicine supply chains and ensure the availability of high-quality medications.
- Additionally more support for collaborative procurement efforts among EU member states to ensure fair access to critical medicines is set to merge resources and coordinating purchases.
- Finally, the Act proposes joint procurement mechanisms at the EU level to address the challenges of rare diseases. This approach aims to improve access to treatments for orphan diseases by making the best use of collective purchasing power and encouraging collaboration among member states.

You can find the proposal of the Critical Medicines act [here](#)

MONITORING

European Medicine Agency qualifies first artificial intelligence tool to diagnose inflammatory liver disease (MASH) in biopsy samples

On 20 March, EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) qualifies [first artificial intelligence tool](#), AIM-NASH, that helps pathologists analyse liver biopsy scans to diagnose inflammatory liver disease (metabolic dysfunction associated steatohepatitis; formerly known as non-alcoholic steatohepatitis NASH) in clinical trials. The AIM-NASH tool is aimed to improve the reliability and efficiency of clinical trials by reducing variability in measuring disease activity, ultimately helping to bring effective treatments to patients faster.

Professional Practice

Union of skills

The union of skills was introduced by the European Commission on 5 March 2025 and aim to improve high quality education, training and lifelong learning to tackle the current gaps in the workforce.

The Commission has already identified 42 occupations with EU-wide shortages. The largest shortages are in some health professions such as nurses and specialist doctors, and care workers. They are likely to increase with AI, robotics, data-driven processes and the clean transition transforming industries.

EU's main commitment to boost its competitiveness by promoting lifelong learning and continuous skills development will ensure that education aligns with current and future labor market needs, and foster more collaboration between governments, educational institutions, and employers. It also highlights the importance of investing in innovation and digital transformation to equip citizens with the necessary skills for a dynamic and sustainable economy.

Moreover the EU has decreed legislation to ensure the free movement of professionals in regulated fields, complemented by a suite of transparency and labor market tools

MONITORING

Digital Health

European Commission releases open-source HealthData@EU Platform

The European Commission has released [the open-source HealthData@EU Central Platform](#). This will help building the European Health Data Space (EHDS) to enable the secondary use of health data for research, innovation, and policymaking. This platform provides open-source tools to help Member States connect their national infrastructures to the EU-level platform, promoting transparency, collaboration, and digital innovation in healthcare.

The platform centralises health data from across Europe, making it secure and accessible for researchers, policymakers, and public health authorities. It features a multilingual interface, smart search, and integration with national data catalogues. This release supports researchers, policymakers, health analysts, and the general public by providing better access to health data and encouraging collaboration beyond the EU.

ENISA NIS360 2024 report: A comprehensive look at cybersecurity maturity and criticality of NIS2 sectors

On 5 March, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity published its first [NIS360 report](#), identifying areas for improvement and tracking progress across NIS2 Directive sectors. NIS360 is a new product that evaluates the maturity and criticality of NIS2 sectors, offering both a comparative and a more detailed analysis.

The goal of NIS360 is to assist national authorities and cybersecurity agencies in implementing NIS2 and aims to support policymakers at the national and EU levels in developing strategies and enhancing cyber resilience. The report outlines three main priorities: strengthening collaboration, developing sector-specific guidance for implementing NIS2 requirements, aligning requirements across borders and fostering cross-border collaboration in NIS2 sectors.

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