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## Dear colleagues

We are pleased to share the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of our monthly Bulletin, with the outcomes of the Board of Directors meeting on 15 February 2023. The first edition was launched in December 2013, with the aim of updating you on the main decisions taken following each monthly Board meeting and on the most important policy news on a European level. We hope that the format continues to be useful to you and your association, and your feedback is always very welcome!

The first Bulletin announced a CPME conference on 'Better working conditions for better care' that took place in April 2014 with the Commissioner Tonio Borg, who was responsible for health. This topic is more relevant than ever, as earlier this month the Italian federation remembered colleagues lost during the pandemic and we prepare for the European Awareness Day of Violence Against Doctors and other Health Professionals on 12 March.

We hope you find this Bulletin informative and look forward to many more.

**Dr Christiaan Keijzer**

CPME President



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 FEBRUARY 2023

## Finances

### Final accounts and balance sheet 2022 and revised budget 2023

- ▶ The Board agreed to present the final accounts and balance sheet 2022 and revised budget 2023 to the General Assembly in March.

The Board noted that the forecast deficit is more than 95 000 EUR less than expected, largely due to a vacant staff position which is soon to be filled. With a view to 2023, the revised budget proposes savings of €36 000. To map the impact on future budgets, an updated simulation of the next three years' forecast budgets will be prepared to inform the discussion.

## Internal Affairs

### Agendas of General Assembly, Board, Policy Sessions

- ▶ The Board reviewed the draft agendas of the General Assembly, Board, and Policy Sessions in March.

A concept for the members' conference on the European Health Data Space was presented, noting that MEP Sokol (co-rapporteur on the EHDS for the ENVI committee) will be the keynote speaker.

### Rules of Procedure

- ▶ The Board approved proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure regarding the send-out deadline for statutory meetings.

A general review of the Rules of Procedure will be initiated this year, and considerations were discussed.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 FEBRUARY 2023

## CPME–SMA joint conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

- ▶ The Board took note of the planning for a joint event on AMR in Stockholm during the Swedish presidency of the Council of the European Union, also benefitting from the headquarters of the ECDC being present there.

The Swedish Medical Association has kindly agreed to host the event and we are awaiting endorsement from the Swedish Presidency. See page 6 for more info.

## Policies

### EU Ambient Air Quality Directive

- ▶ The Board adopted the draft CPME amendments to the European Commission's proposal for a revision of the EU ambient air quality directives.

The amendments focus on the full alignment of the EU air quality standards with the WHO guidelines by 2030, training of healthcare professionals, protection of vulnerable groups, setting limit values for ozone instead of target values, and involving healthcare professionals in the air quality plans, short-term action plans, and public information.

They are in line with the 2019 CPME Policy on Air Quality and Health and the 2021 CPME Public Consultation Response. CPME is also working with a group of non-profit health organisations which sent a broader set of amendments to MEP Javi López (S&D / Spain), the rapporteur of the European Parliament.

### WHO/Europe Access to Novel Medicines Initiative

- ▶ The Board adopted a draft statement welcoming the WHO/Europe Access to Novel Medicines Initiative and agreed to send it in writing to WHO/Europe.

This year, WHO/Europe is doing a series of consultations and will produce a proposal which is envisaged for approval for at the WHO/Europe meeting in the autumn.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 15 FEBRUARY 2023

## eHealth Stakeholder Group

- ▶ The Board decided to accept the formal invitation to continue our engagement in the eHealth Stakeholder Group, and to re-nominate Prof. Dr Georgios Raptis and Ms Sara Roda as CPME representatives in the Group.

## A Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health

- ▶ The Board adopted the feedback response to the European Commission's call for evidence for an EU comprehensive approach to mental health.

The feedback mentions that CPME is particularly pleased to see that also healthcare professionals are addressed by this approach. It was agreed to add a reference that maintaining good mental health among doctors and other healthcare professionals ensures that they will be able to provide care of the highest standard to their patients.

## Letter of condolence to the Turkish Medical Association

- ▶ The Board noted a letter of condolence sent to the Turkish Medical Association following the devastating earthquake.

The TMA has deployed members to the regions affected most heavily. At the same time, the trial against the TMA has been confirmed for 28 February. Ole Johan Bakke has agreed to represent CPME. Please see an update below.

## Joint event on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the political priorities of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. CPME, together with the Swedish Medical Association (SMA) will therefore organise a joint hybrid [event](#) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on 27 April 2023.

The effective implementation of antibiotic stewardship programmes at the national level has enabled Sweden to lead the fight against antimicrobial resistance for a long time. Faced with the increasing cross-border threats to health resulting from antimicrobial resistance, CPME looks at the doctor's role in containing AMR, also in the context of healthcare associated infections, by promoting good practices on the prudent use of antibiotics, as well as the wider policy context including R&D, pharmaceutical supply chain and environment.

The SMA will kindly host this hybrid event in Stockholm. The event will start with a keynote presentation by Dr Diamantis Plachouras from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, focusing on the doctors' role in tackling antibiotic resistance. Two panel discussions will follow the presentation. The first panel discussion will focus on the prudent use of antimicrobials in healthcare, while the second panel discussion will cover sustainable access to effective antibiotics. CPME and SMA invited experts from the Swedish government, ECDC, European Commission, HERA, Public Health Agency of Sweden, Strama, national medical associations, ReAct and Health Action International.

## Feedback on a Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health

CPME welcomes the European Commission's overall aim of the comprehensive EU approach to improve mental health by integrating it into all relevant EU policies and to maximise the added value of EU policies in national and local efforts. CPME is particularly pleased to see that also healthcare professionals are addressed by this approach. Moreover, CPME welcomes the EU approach's aim to address inter-disciplinary training for the health workforce, improved exchange and networking among mental health professionals. Please find the full feedback response [here](#).

## European Awareness Day on violence against Doctors and other Health Professionals

On 12 March 2023, we mark the 4th European Awareness Day on Violence against Doctors and other Health Professionals. Violence against health professionals continues to be a major concern as doctors and other health professionals are facing increasing rates of incidences.

The European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM) is organising a conference on 'Aggressions against healthcare workers in Europe' taking place in Madrid on 9 March 2023 hosted by the General Medical Council of Spain. Please find here the [registration](#) form and the [agenda](#) of the meeting. CPME looks forward to attending the event.

## Feedback on vaccine-preventable cancers

On 2 February, CPME President and Rapporteur adopted a feedback response on the European Commission proposal on vaccine-preventable cancers. It highlights that routine vaccination of girls and boys against HPV has to be extended. The goal set in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is to vaccinate at least 90% of the EU target population of girls by 2030. CPME commented that this should be set also for boys. Please find the feedback response [here](#).

## Turkish Medical Association helps to coordinate health services in earthquake areas

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and all healthcare professionals responding to the tragedy, including our colleagues in the Turkish Medical Association (TMA).

The TMA has set up a crisis desk to contribute to providing and coordinating health services in the earthquake area. It identified the following seven [priorities](#): security, search and rescue, treatment of the injured, shelter, evaluation of the current situation, struggle with misinformation, coordination and cooperation. Moreover, the TMA has published [fact sheets](#) about obtaining clean water, nutritional recommendations, sanitary solutions, waste management, care of babies, disease prevention, temporary shelters, air pollution, women's health, and the rights of healthcare workers.

In their last statement on 28 February, the TMA highlighted that almost all institutions providing secondary and tertiary health care services in Hatay were damaged and the problems experienced in the education of medical students and residents in cities affected by the earthquake. They call on the Ministry of Health to act in coordination with TMA in order to solve the urgent demands in health services after the earthquake.

## Trial of Turkish Medical Association's Central Council delayed

The trial of the TMA's Central Council, who face dismissal on arbitrary charges of terrorist propaganda, has been delayed until 6 April. We united with the other European Medical Organisations and the World Medical Association to issue a [statement](#) calling for the autonomy of Turkish Medical Association to be safeguarded. We also joined four international medical and human rights organisations to send a [letter](#) and publish a [press release](#) calling on Turkish authorities to drop the baseless charges.



## Italian federation honours healthcare, social health, social assistance and volunteer staff in Italy

20 February 2023 marked the [Italian National Day of Healthcare, Social Health, Social Assistance and Volunteer Staff](#), including activities organised by the Italian National Federation of the Colleges of Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists ([FNOMCeO](#)). The date is chosen to commemorate the day medical professionals discovered the first patient with COVID-19 in the provincial town of Codogno as the first case of the disease in Europe.

For this third anniversary edition, the eleven national federations of the social and health professions have chosen to celebrate the day together by jointly designing a programmes under the theme of "Immense Beauty" with musical performances and readings of short texts by scientists and poets.

The National Day aims to honour the work, commitment, professionalism and sacrifice of medical, health, social health, social assistance, and volunteer staff during the pandemic. The Italian Health Minister Orazio Schillaci extended his deep gratitude to all health, social health, social assistance and voluntary professions. He highlighted, "Now more than ever, taking care of those who take care of us is an absolute priority" [*Mai come adesso prenderci cura di chi si prende cura di noi è una priorità assoluta*].

Moreover, he indicated the increased need for the protection of health and social care personnel: "I consider it essential to implement all the necessary initiatives to protect the safety of health and social care personnel, in light of the episodes of physical and verbal aggression that are repeated with disconcerting frequency, in particular against women" [*Considero indifferibile mettere in atto tutte le iniziative necessarie a tutelare l'incolumità del personale sanitario e sociosanitario, alla luce degli episodi di aggressione fisica e verbale che si ripetono con sconcertante frequenza, in particolare contro le donne*].

In 2021, [CPME joined FNOMCeO](#) on 20 February in a ceremony marking the first remembrance day for the doctors and other health professionals who lost their lives during the pandemic. Commemorative plaques in Codogno and the FNOMCeO offices mark this occasion.

## **Anniina Hentinen appointed as Junior EU Policy Adviser**

Anniina joined the Secretariat on 1 March 2023 will be in charge of the topics of professional practice and health systems.

Prior to joining CPME, she worked as a public affairs consultant with the themes of health technologies and security policy, as well as at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the International department of the Parliament of Finland.

She holds a Master's degree in International Relations having studied at the University of Tampere, Finland and Sciences Po Paris, France.

## **Katharina Fritsch and Sıla Gürbüz joined Secretariat as Interns**

Katharina joined the Secretariat on 6 February 2023 as an intern from Maastricht University. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in European Public Health.

Sıla joined the Secretariat on 1 March 2023. She is a 5th year medical student from Karadeniz Technical University Faculty of Medicine, Turkiye. Prior to joining CPME, she held the position of Public Health Director on the European Board of European Medical Students' Association (EMSA). She focused on planetary health, NCDs, and nutrition, including their integration into medical education for four years at local, national and European levels of EMSA.

## **Decoding the European Health Data Space: Doctors' and Patients' Perspectives**

On 28 March 2023, the German Medical Association (Bundesärztekammer) and the KBV (German Outpatient Physicians/ Kassenärztliche Bundesvereinigung) will debate the implications of the EHDS on the patient-doctor relationship. The discussion would touch upon questions of patient autonomy, professional confidentiality, patients' expectations, and their trust in the EHDS: What impact would the EHDS have on healthcare within the EU? Would patients benefit from more autonomy? What does the EHDS mean for the daily practice of healthcare providers?

Register [here](#) to follow the debate live at the Residence Palace Restaurant or via Livestream.

## MONITORING

## EU Political Outlook

### European Parliament sets up new Public Health subcommittee

MEPs decided to establish a new, [permanent subcommittee](#) for issues relating to public health. At the plenary, the new Public Health subcommittee, which was constituted under the supervision of the ENVI Committee, was described in terms of its responsibilities and membership. The topics covered will include public health initiatives and targeted initiatives, pharmaceutical and cosmetic items, health effects of bioterrorism, the European Medicines Agency, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Examining and voting on legislative proposals will continue to be handled by the ENVI Committee.

### Council of the EU's Conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2023–2024

The Council of the European Union presented its [priorities](#) for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2023–2024. In the field of health, it was agreed that the European Union will intensify the long-standing co-operation with the Council of Europe expert groups in the policy area of blood, tissues and cells in order to guarantee a better response to public health needs. Likewise, the cooperation with the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Health Care (EDQM) will continue to contribute to this goal.

## MONITORING

## Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

### Draft proposal for the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation leaked

A draft proposal for the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation, that was leaked last week, provides a solid indication of the direction that the revision takes. CPME got hold of the proposal and attach it for your information. Measures included in the proposal include modulated incentives, improved competition by introducing early entry to the market for generic medicines, R&D costs transparency, obligation to launch in EU27, transferable exclusivity vouchers, and medicine shortages mitigation. Full and detailed analysis of the proposal will follow in due time.

### Pharmaceutical legislation delayed to 29 March 2023

The European Commission is now planning to publish its proposal to update the EU's general pharmaceutical legislation on [29 March](#), according to the tentative agenda of the College of Commissioners dated to February 14. The proposed revision of the EU rules for medicines for children and rare diseases is also now scheduled for the same date.

### European Parliament supports extension for medical devices

The European Parliament's plenary [adopted](#), following an urgent procedure, the Commission's proposal for transitional provisions for certain medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices. Proposal of the European Commission can be found [here](#). CPME prepared a short analysis of the proposal (CPME 2023/007).

## MONITORING

## Council of Europe's Recommendation on equitable access to medicinal products and medical equipment in a situation of shortage

The Council of Europe has adopted a [Recommendation](#) on access to medicines and medical devices in situations of shortage, both in the context of health emergencies and beyond. The recommendation highlights the principles of non-discrimination and promotes prioritisation based on medical criteria, while also respecting accountability, transparency and inclusiveness, by carrying out individual medical assessment, with the aim of minimising the risk of mortality and, subsequently, morbidity. It calls for the creation of national policies to react to shortages, and for health professionals to be involved in their development. Alongside the policies on medicine shortages and health inequalities, CPME contributed the [CPME survey on triage protocols in the context of COVID-19](#) coordinated by the WG on Ethics and COVID-19 to the drafting process.

## Public consultation on a multi-stakeholder platform to improve clinical trials in the EU

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) and the European Commission (EC) are launching a [public consultation](#) on 3 February 2023 to establish a multi-stakeholder platform to improve clinical trials in the European Union (EU). The multi-stakeholder platform is one of the outputs of the joint initiative Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU (ACT EU). By 3 March 2023, stakeholders are invited to submit their comments on the ACT EU multi-stakeholder platform's concept paper and suggest critical points for discussion.

## Use of Clinical Trials Information System becomes mandatory for new clinical trial applications in the EU

The use of Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS) for new clinical trial applications in the European Union is now [mandatory](#). From 31 January 2023, CTIS becomes the single-entry point for sponsors and regulators of clinical under the new Clinical Trials Regulation (CTR), after a one-year transition.

## MONITORING

## Actions to support the development of medicines for children

Over the past four years, European Union regulators have taken various [actions](#) to increase paediatric regulatory process efficiency and boost the development of medicines for children. These achievements are summarised in the European Medicines Agency and European Commission paediatric action plan [closing report](#). Improvements made by the paediatric action plan include:

- Strengthened focus on unmet medical needs
- Adapting regulatory processes to support innovation better
- Increased alignment of data requirements between decision-makers

## EMA starts safety review of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines

A new review has been started by EMA's safety committee (PRAC) of medicines containing [pseudoephedrine](#) due to concerns about the risk of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) and reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS), both conditions affecting blood vessels in the brain.

## Croatia, France and Poland join EU's strategic reserves for chemical, biological and radiological emergencies

Through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), the European Commission is setting up [strategic reserves](#) of response capacities to enhance the EU preparedness and response to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. As part of this operation, Croatia, France, and Poland have joined Finland to host the rescEU stockpiles worth in total €545.6 million, including antidotes, antibiotics, vaccines, sedatives, and prophylactic treatments and specific CBRN response equipment.

## MONITORING

## Updates on Psychedelics

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), together with national experts from the European medicines regulatory network, and the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, published a [joint commentary](#) in the Lancet on "The Therapeutic Potential of Psychedelics: The European Regulatory Perspective".

Also on this topic, POLITICO [reported](#) that, on 16 February, a group of MEPs sent a letter to Emer Cooke, the Head of EMA, urging EU action on magic mushroom and MDMA therapies, especially to explore psychedelics' potential to address mental health disorders.

## New judgements of the EU Court of Justice in the field of health

[Case C-469/21](#): On 26 January 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) stated in preliminary ruling that the creation of a public interface, as a tool for accessing the national repository of pharmaceuticals and the obligation to use a specific application for certain medicinal products are in accordance with the EU Law.

[Joined Cases C-495/21 and C-496/21](#): On 19 January 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) highlighted in preliminary ruling that the community code relating to medicinal products for human use applies not only to 'medicinal products by function', but also to 'medicinal products by presentation'. The CJEU also stressed that if the principal mode of action of a product is not scientifically established, that product cannot meet the definition of the concept of 'medical device' or of 'medicinal product by function'. According to the CJEU, it is for the national courts to assess, on a case-by-case basis, if the requirements regarding the definition of 'medicinal product by presentation' are satisfied.



## MONITORING

## Public Health and Disease Prevention

### First meeting of the Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

DG SANTE hosted an online meeting to establish the rules of procedure and working methods of the new [Public Health Expert Group](#) (PHEG) and the mandates of two newly formed subgroups on vaccination and mental health. The meeting was attended by representatives from 25 Member States, Norway, and Iceland, as well as agencies and services of the Commission. On 14 February 2023, the sub-group on mental health held its first meeting.

### Commission presents first Country Cancer Profiles under the European Cancer Inequalities Registry

The Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has presented the first [Country Cancer Profiles](#) under the European Cancer Inequalities Registry for all EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, to identify challenges and share best practices between Member States in tackling cancer inequalities. This initiative was launched during the high-level conference in the framework of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: 'Conference on cancer – Equity, excellence and innovation: modern cancer care for all', which took place on 1 February and was co-organised by the Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

### Experts call for clampdowns on exploitative formula milk marketing in new Lancet series

A [new three-paper series](#) published in The Lancet shows that the formula milk industry's marketing tactics are exploitative and calls for urgent clampdowns to address misleading claims and political interference which seriously jeopardize the health and rights of women and children.

## MONITORING

## Commission proposes 2030 zero-emissions target for new city buses and 90% emissions reductions for new trucks by 2040

For new heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) beginning in 2030, the European Commission has outlined new CO2 [emissions targets](#). These targets will aid in reducing CO2 emissions in the transportation sector. The Commission suggests gradually implementing stricter CO2 emissions criteria for nearly all new HDVs with certified CO2 emissions, as compared to 2019 levels, with the following reductions in CO2 emissions: 45% from 2030, 65% from 2035, and 90% from 2040.

## Fit for 55: zero CO2 emissions for new cars and vans in 2035

As part of the ["Fit for 55" initiative](#), the European Parliament approved the new CO2 emissions reduction targets for new cars and vans. MEPs approved the agreement negotiated with the Council on enhanced CO2 emission performance standards for new cars and vans in line with the EU's greater climate ambition with 340 votes in favour, 279 against, and 21 abstentions. With the proposed regulations, new cars and vans will have zero CO2 emissions by 2035.

## Launch of WHO–OECD report on the burden of insufficient physical activity in Europe

WHO Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have published a [new report](#) "Step up! Tackling the burden of insufficient physical activity in Europe", showing how increasing physical activity can prevent thousands of premature deaths in the EU and save billions of euros in health-care spending annually. The report, which was developed with EU funding, has

## MONITORING

## New EuroHealthNet Flashcard Tool explores the potential of the European Pillar of Social Rights for public health action

EuroHealthNet has launched a new "[Flashcard Tool](#)" for public health action, which aims to help public health professionals and policy-makers turn the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) into practice and specific actions. Each flashcard examines a different principle and shows how the principle can help achieve health and wellbeing for all.

## Webinar: Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers

On 23 March, the European Commission will organise a webinar which is part of a series of consultations to support the preparation of a Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers. The proposal aims to help EU Member States address vaccine-preventable cancers with a focus on increasing the uptake of vaccination against Human papillomaviruses (HPV) and Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Please find more details and register [here](#).

## Swedish Presidency's Conference on cancer

On 1 February, the Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union co-organised a high-level conference in the framework of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: "Equity, excellence and innovation: modern cancer care for all". A CPME report is available [here](#).

## MONITORING

## Digital Health

### Data Act closer to trilogues

On 25 January, the Swedish Presidency circulated a new compromise on the Data Act. According to a [Brussels newspaper](#), the new text tries to clarify the regulation's scope, includes a right to seek compensation for data holders whose trade secrets have been breached, and extends business-to-government (B2G) data-sharing obligations to micro and small companies for public emergencies. It also includes elements on how to assess 'reasonable' compensation for releasing data, extends the fairness check to all contractual arrangements and adds a transparency obligation for cloud services on the location of their infrastructure and measures to prevent foreign jurisdictions' access to data.

The Parliament's ITRE Committee [adopted](#) the draft legislation on 9 February. MEPs adopted measures to allow users to gain access to the data they generate, as 80% of industrial data are never used. They also want to ensure contractual agreements are at the centre of business-to-business relations. It will be put to a vote by the plenary in March, then trilogues will follow.

CPME is mainly monitoring the file, in particular in relation to definitions of 'data users', 'users' and 'data holders', and the interaction with the General Data Protection Rules and the EHDS.

Background: the Data Act introduces the principle that users of connected products should have the right to access the data they contributed to generating, as well as the metadata necessary to interpret and use such data, and to share it with a third party of their choice.

## MONITORING

## ENVI-LIBE draft report on the European Health Data Space

On 15 February, the European Parliament's ENVI and LIBE Committees released the [draft report](#) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Health Data Space. CPME considers there are some positive adjustments, but certain points that we have requested were not addressed.

## Study for developing criteria for assessing "reasonable compensation" in the case of statutory data access right

In December, the European Commission published a [study](#) to develop criteria/parameters which can be used for calculating such 'reasonable compensation' in scenarios where a data holder is compelled to share data with a data recipient.

Background: the Data Act provides in Article 8(1) that "[w]here a data holder is obliged to make data available to a data recipient under Article 56 or under other Union law or national legislation implementing Union law, it shall do so under fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and in a transparent manner". This provision is complemented by Article 9(1), which provides that "[a]ny compensation agreed between a data holder and a data recipient for making data available shall be reasonable".

## Artificial intelligence in mental health research: new WHO study on applications and challenges

A [new study](#) by WHO Europe acknowledges that using artificial intelligence (AI) in mental health services and research has potential, but also shows there are important shortcomings in how the AI applications process statistics, infrequent data validation and little evaluation of the risk of bias, as well as a significant lack of transparency reporting on AI models.

## MONITORING

## Flemish hospitals using AI to improve cancer diagnoses

Two Antwerp-based hospitals, the ZNA and GHA, will be the first ones in the Benelux to use [artificial intelligence](#) (AI) to improve cancer diagnoses. Both Antwerp hospitals are now using an AI software to better examine tumour cells and help doctors make faster and more accurate assessments.

## European Commission calls for feedback on Key performance indicators for the Digital Decade policy programme 2030

On 13 February 2023, the European Commission opened the call for [feedback](#) on its draft implementing decision setting out key performance indicators to measure the progress towards the Digital Decade policy programme 2030. The feedback period is open until 13 March 2023.

## MONITORING

## Professional Practice and Health Systems

### New WHO report lays out concrete actions for governments to optimise public–private partnerships for health

A new report has been published by WHO/Europe offering key actions for governments to optimise [public–private partnerships](#) (PPPs) in health care. As many middle–income countries are facing common challenges to the efficiency of their health systems, there is a perception that PPPs can play a role in addressing them by providing health facilities, equipment or services.

### Commission takes action on Professional Qualifications Directive

As of 14 February, the Commission is pursuing 24 [cases](#) against several Member States related to service–related legislation. In relation to the revised Professional Qualifications Directive the following decisions were made:

1. Health professionals in Poland no longer have to take a specific language test if they can attest to their knowledge in other ways;
2. Health professionals in the Netherlands no longer have to take a specific language test that included unrelated skills checks.

## MONITORING

## Kick-off meeting of the Joint Action 'HEROES – Health workforce to meet health challenges'

The kick-off meeting of the Joint Action 'HEROES – Health workforce to meet health challenges' took place in Rome on 16 February. The HEROES (Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting) Joint Action aims to improve the health workforce planning capacities of European countries in order to guarantee accessibility, sustainability, and resilience of healthcare services. CPME Secretary General, Sarada Das, attended the hybrid event and stated that CPME is looking forward to further cooperation.

## The EU's new care strategy is a litmus test for social Europe

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has given its [approval](#) to the European Commission's proposal for a comprehensive European Care Strategy. The EESC has welcomed the Commission's proposal as an important step to guarantee that all EU citizens have access to high quality healthcare and care service.



## MONITORING

## Principles, Patients and Ethics

### Key priorities for health system recovery in Ukraine the focus of new paper

As the Russian Federation continues its invasion, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ukraine, the World Bank and the European Union (EU) have released a [joint discussion paper](#) outlining critical priorities for the recovery of Ukrainian health systems over the next two years. During discussions with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, the document was developed to complement the National Recovery Plan of Ukraine. It presents an analysis of critical priorities for the health sector across in four domains:

- Service delivery
- Capital investment
- Health financing
- Strengthening institutions

### One-stop resource toolkit launched on refugee and migrant health

A new refugee and migrant health [toolkit](#) was developed by WHO to assist countries in health and migration programmes. This web-based one-stop platform will include a wide range of tools and resources to support the global, regional, and country implementation steps for health and migration-related activities.

### Twitter criticised for insufficient report on disinformation

EU officials have [criticised](#) Twitter for providing insufficient data on their efforts to tackle disinformation. Věra Jourová, European Commission vice president said “I am disappointed to see that Twitter’s report lags behind others”. The Commission will have a conversation with Twitter to ensure they are “taking their commitments seriously” and discuss improvements. Notably, Twitter [stopped](#) enforcing its COVID misinformation policy in November.



**DONATE TO THE UKRAINE MEDICAL HELP FUND**

**World medical  
community  
stands in solidarity  
with Ukraine**

Following an urgent appeal by the Ukrainian Medical Association, the Fund has been established by by the World Medical Association, CPME and the European Forum of Medical Associations to unite efforts to support our Ukrainian colleagues

More information is available [here](#)

We are grateful for any donations to the following account:

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