



## CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Stay in the Loop!*



### September 2021

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*Dear colleagues,*

*We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the Executive Committee outcomes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021.*

*The members of the Executive Committee reviewed the CPME rebranding strategy and adopted a statement on the e-Evidence regulation. Also, they agreed to maintain the CPME General Assembly taking place in Oslo (Norway) on 26-27 November 2021, as a face-to-face meeting with a hybrid option for those not attending in person. A new set of agendas and information on logistical considerations will be shared with members in the coming weeks. We look forward to hopefully see all of you in person again.*

*This September will be also a month of changes for the CPME Secretariat. Our Communication Manager Miriam D'Ambrosio will soon leave us to move to another job position. We are currently selecting a new person and will communicate her/his contact details as soon as the selection procedure is concluded. On your behalf, I thank Miriam for her valuable job done within CPME and wish her all the best for this new chapter in her life: may it be full of health and success.*

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

*Kind regards,*

*Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery  
CPME President*

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## Executive Committee meeting – 09 September 2021

### Internal Affairs

#### CPME rebranding process

*The Executive Committee took note of the logo proposal sent by the designer Paulo Joliv and was informed about the status of the website development.*

The logo proposal takes into account the directions of the CPME Board held in March 2020 will be sent to the next General Assembly in Oslo for final decision.

#### Finance

*The Executive Committee reviewed the current accounts as of June 2021 and raised no questions. The Executive Committee also discussed the draft budget 2022.*

The current accounts and the draft budget 2022 will be presented to the next General Assembly in November 2021 in Oslo.

#### GA and Board, Oslo November 2021

*The Executive Committee decided that the next General Assembly and Board meeting in Oslo will be held in person. The Executive Committee took note of the General Assembly and Board draft agendas.*

For those members who will not be able to attend in person, the secretariat will offer a hybrid meeting solution and will accommodate for electronic voting with NemoVote. Please note that the you will receive all supporting documents and the draft agendas on:

- 1st send-out: 4 November 2021
- 2nd send-out: 18 November 2021.

#### Project proposals

*The Executive Committee took note of the four invitations received by CPME to join project proposals and agreed that in general CPME should only participate in a project as full partners if it is worthwhile politically and financially.*

Invitations were received from the following projects; 1) **BeWell**, a project to create a skills strategy for health professionals with an emphasis on digital skills and to develop a core curricula and training programme; 2) **Digital Health Management 4 future European healthcare leaders (DIHEMA)**, a project to foster innovations in healthcare systems by providing international interdisciplinary trainings for medical professionals on digital health management and precision medicine innovations; 3) **BRIDGE**, a project to jointly develop a comprehensive and inclusive European strategy in improving digital health literacy with a focus on health promotion, disease

prevention, treatment and selfcare; 4) *Label2Enable*, a project to create standards for the use of m-Health as well as to classify m-Health apps.

## Policies

### **Ethics and COVID-19**

*The Executive Committee decided on the final steps of the working group's activities.*

Following the collection of responses to the CPME members' survey on triage protocols and COVID-19, the Executive Committee reviewed the results and agreed they should be presented to the CPME Board in November. The Executive Committee also decided that a further discussion of Long COVID is beyond the WG's scope. In terms of the discussion on off-label use of medicines to treat COVID-19, it was decided there is no need for a separate event. Lastly, the Executive Committee confirmed the WG's suggestion to conclude its work which will be confirmed at the forthcoming Board meeting.

### **Draft CPME Statement on e-Evidence Regulation COM(2018) 225**

*The Executive Committee approved the draft statement as amended by the German Medical Association.*

The [Regulation on European Production and Preservation orders for Electronic Evidence in Criminal Matters](#) (e-Evidence regulation) was proposed by the European Commission to provide a legal framework for direct cooperation between investigating authorities and service providers. The proposed e-Evidence regulation would allow investigative authorities to address an order directly to the service provider operating in another Member State. The service provider would be obliged to transmit or provisionally secure the requested data without requiring a prior decision by the respective national authority. CPME believes that the proposal violates professional secrecy and medical confidentiality that doctors have to comply with. The published statement is available on the [CPME website](#).

### **EU Health Policy Platform – 2021 Thematic network**

*The Executive Committee decided to express interest in joining the thematic network.*

DG SANTE has nominated three new thematic networks to be hosted on the European Health Policy Platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration. One of the networks is led by members of the [Interest Group on Supranational Biolaw from the European Association of Health Law](#). This network is dedicated to reaffirming health as a fundamental value in EU policies and ensuring the highest ethical standards for the pharmaceutical strategy to be inclusive and equitable in the EU and beyond (e.g., by prioritising unmet medical needs, addressing IP constraints or increasing inclusion of underrepresented groups in research). Executive Committee members agreed that the participation in the network could broaden the CPME's understanding of how to increase the importance of health in EU policies, and how to ensure the implementation of the pharmaceutical strategy is driven by the principles of equality and inclusiveness. The network is

composed of academics and lawyers allowing CPME to exchange ideas with different perspectives.

### **European Health Union**

*The Executive Committee received an update on the state of negotiations on the 'European Health Union' legislative proposals.*

The [European Health Union](#), a legislative package composed of three legislative proposals including the [Regulation on Serious Cross Border Threats to Health](#), and extensions to the [Regulation on the European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) and the [Regulation on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#), aims to develop stronger crisis preparedness and response mechanisms within the European Union. The proposals are currently in the first reading of the Ordinary Legislative Procedure. The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have already provided their amendments to the proposals. Following an analysis by CPME, it was confirmed that the European Parliament's negotiating position includes almost all of the [CPME suggestions](#), while the Council's position foresees a more limited extension of competences. The draft Regulation strengthening the mandate of the EMA is progressing fastest. CPME will continue its outreach activities to both, the European Parliament and the Council, and will report on progress.

### **Any other business**

#### **Request from the Czech Medical Chamber**

*The Executive Committee decided that CPME will disseminate a set of questions from the Czech Medical Chamber to the membership.*

The questions are related to doctors speaking against COVID-19 vaccination and national medical associations responses to this.

### **International Calendar**

*The Executive Committee considered the international calendar.*

## Monitoring

### MEPs approved the Commission's new Farm to Fork strategy

On 10 September, MEPs on the Environment, Public Health & Food Safety and Agriculture Committees (ENVI) adopted the report on a [Farm to Fork strategy](#). They highlighted that more land for organic farming and binding reduction targets for pesticide use are needed. Moreover, the MEPs called for a shift in consumption towards more healthy diets. They emphasised that overconsumption of meat and highly processed foods with high salt, sugar and fat content must be addressed. Next, the report on the Farm to Fork strategy is expected to be debated and voted during the Parliament plenary in October. Please find more [here](#).

### WHO cancer agency recommends Nutri-Score labelling scheme for EU adoption

On 1 September, the WHO's cancer research agency (IARC) concluded in their report that the Nutri-Score front-of-pack labelling scheme is an effective tool to guide consumers towards healthier food choices. Based on scientific evidence, the IARC report stresses the superiority of the Nutri-Score to other nutrition labels, and calls for its widespread and systematic adoption in Europe and beyond, to help consumers lower their risk of noncommunicable diseases such as cancer. Please find more [here](#). The European Commission is expected to open a public consultation in the fourth quarter of 2021.

### State of the European Union address and debate

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her State of the European Union address to the European Parliament. She outlined the impact of the Commission's work in the past year, particularly in tackling the COVID-19 health and economic crisis, and shared her vision for responding to the challenges facing the EU. Among other things, President von der Leyen called for more European cooperation on defence, climate change, and health. President von der Leyen highlighted that Europe is among the world leaders in vaccination coverage, with around 70% of the EU adult population being fully vaccinated. She also announced plans to distribute another 200 million doses to low- and middle-income countries by the middle of 2022 in addition to the 200 million doses already pledged for the end of 2021. President von der Leyen also announced the creation of the Health Emergency and Response Authority (HERA), which will be officially unveiled on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.

## UEMO Press release on specialty recognition

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, The European Union of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (UEMO) has released a press statement on specialty recognition. UEMO supports the need to maintain rigorous training standards of General Practitioners / Family Physicians throughout Europe, and refutes any suggestions or attempts to lower those standards, which would jeopardize the quality of medical care provided to European citizens. The full press release can be found [here](#).

## mHealth label published

The new technical specification on a quality label for health and wellness apps has been published by ISO, CEN and IEC. It brings together and builds on guidelines and requirements for apps, by many local and national health organizations around the world to ensure they are safe, reliable and effective. The guidance provides an internationally agreed set of specifications to assess the apps, with a scoring methodology that gives a “traffic light” themed label. The label enables apps to be easily compared by users and health professionals. For further information see [here](#). CPME has contributed to the discussions.

## Report on mental health of workforce

The DG SANTE advisory Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health has published the full report of the hearing on the draft opinion on [supporting the mental health of the health workforce and other essential workers](#). CPME attended the hearing and provided feedback regarding vaccination priority and essential workers as well as the importance of creating a supportive institutional framework at the EU-level in order to make effective measures a reality.

## Eurobarometer: Health remains high priority concern for citizens

According to this [Standard Eurobarometer survey](#) conducted in June-July 2021, attitudes towards the EU remain positive and broadly stable. Optimism about the future of the EU has reached its highest level since 2009 and trust in the EU remains at its highest since 2008. Support for the euro remains stable at its highest since 2004. The survey also indicates a significant improvement in the perception of the state of national economies. European citizens identify the economic situation as their top concern at EU level, followed by the environment and climate change and by immigration. At the national level, health remains the main issue of concern, slightly ahead of the economic situation of the country. The majority of Europeans are satisfied with the measures taken by the EU and by national governments against the coronavirus pandemic and think that the “[NextGenerationEU](#)” recovery plan will be effective in responding to the economic effects of the pandemic. Nearly two-thirds trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future to respond to the pandemic.

## Publication of Preliminary Program for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health law

On August 10, the [Preliminary program](#) for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health law was published. The conference is scheduled to take place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, and it will be hosted in Porto, Portugal. CPME will be hosting two sessions, notably, a session on AI in Healthcare which will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 from 08:30-10:00, and a session on Defensive Medicine which will also take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 from 10:30 to 12:00. It is now possible to register for the conference.

## WHO Member States commit to stronger mental health services

Member States of the WHO European Region have [endorsed a resolution](#) committing governments to better and stronger public mental health services in the region. Ministers of Health, government officials and policy makers adopted the European Framework for Action on Mental Health 2021-2025 at the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The Framework calls for political commitment and leadership from Member States in promoting mental health as a critical area for public health systems, outlining specific actions to increase awareness of mental health issues, promote equitable access to services, mobilize investments and develop adequate mental health policies. The framework will be implemented through joint actions with partners, with a new pan-European Mental Health Coalition being launched at the end of September tasked with the creation of a mental health data lab, building of resilience for children and adolescents, and supporting the mental health of older adults.

## Countries of the WHO European Region adopt new regional immunization agenda for coming decade

An ambitious strategy to ensure equitable and life-long protection from vaccine-preventable diseases was [adopted](#) by the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The European Immunisation Agenda 2030 (EIA2030) was formulated through a consultative process involving Member States and partners to build forward stronger, by creating more resilient immunization systems and structures. By strengthening immunization systems in the region, EIA2030 implementation will help to reduce mortality and morbidity caused by diseases preventable through vaccination, increase equitable access to new and existing vaccines for everyone regardless of age, identity and geographic location, and to strengthen primary health care to contribute to achieving universal health coverage and sustainable development.



### CPME social media

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### CPME publishes press release on Professional Secrecy

In response to the European Commission's Proposal for a Regulation on European Production and Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal matters, CPME has published a press release on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September defending the importance of Professional secrecy. European Doctors consider the proposal to be a serious threat to medical confidentiality and patient trust, and therefore call for an exemption to be added to the scope of the regulation with regards to professional secrecy holders. The full press release can be found [here](#) and a statement on the regulation can be found [here](#).

### CPME meets with French health Attachés to discuss preparation of presidency

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, the CPME Secretariat met with the health attachés of the Permanent Representation of France for an exchange on the policy priorities of the upcoming French presidency. The attachés confirmed that the priorities are a finalization of the European Health Union proposals and the continued development of the European Health Data Space which provides synergies with existing national projects. The attachés also signalled that action on rare diseases and antimicrobial resistance are issues of great national interest to France. CPME and the health attachés of the Permanent Representation of France are exploring possibilities to host a conference on antimicrobial resistance and rare diseases.

### CPME publishes press release on ENVI Committee vote on a stronger legal framework against future pandemics

European Doctors welcome the vote of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on the report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU. The full press release can be found [here](#).

## Recent publications on the CPME Website

### Members' section:

[Report of the Expert Panel of Effective Ways of Investing in Health \(EXPH\) Hearing on the draft opinion on 'supporting mental health of health workforce' – 8 June 2021](#)

[Draft Joint Compendium of e-Evidence Stories](#)

[Draft CPME Statement on e-Evidence Regulation](#)

[Draft CPME comments eHSG WG4 Cross-border uptake of AI for healthcare](#)

[CPME brief points on re-use of health data eHSG WG2](#)

[Draft CPME comments eHSG WG2 – Vision REV](#)

[Draft CPME comments eHSG WG2 - Vision](#)

[Draft CPME comments eHSG WG2 – Actions](#)

[CPME Draft Response DG SANTE – Trasys Study on EHDS – Services Inventory](#)

[CPME Draft Response DG SANTE – Trasys Questions for Study on EHDS](#)

[Minutes of the EU Health Security Committee – 21 July 2021](#)

[CPME Feedback on Commission Proposal for a Regulation on Artificial Intelligence](#)

### CPME news section:

[CPME response to the public consultation on a set of European digital principles](#)

[CPME response to the public consultation on the European health data space](#)

[ENVI Committee objects to prioritising animal welfare over human health](#)

[ENVI Committee for a stronger legal framework against future pandemics](#)

[CPME Feedback on the Revision of rules on information provided to consumers for alcoholic beverages](#)