



CPME MONTHLY BULLETIN

Stay in the Loop!

February 2021

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin presenting the outcomes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 18 February 2021 and some latest monitoring news in EU health policy. Should you have missed our joint conference “Doctors going digital: How to future proof skills”, I highly recommend watching the [summary video](#).

I wish to dearly thank President Dr Filippo Anelli and the Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri (FNOMCeO) for the organization of the commemorative event for doctors and other health professionals who have lost their lives to COVID-19. The first COVID-19 patient in Europe was treated in Codogno Hospital in Italy. And that made Codogno a fitting place for a commemorative plaque for the doctors and other colleagues who have lost their lives to COVID-19 to be unveiled during a ceremony on 20 February 2021 held in Codogno and in Rome.

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

Kind regards – stay healthy!

*Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
CPME President*

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Executive Committee meeting – 18 February 2021

Internal Affairs

Presentation of CPME rebranding

The Executive Committee approved the proposed Logo [CPME 2021/026](#) to be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval and adoption.

Revision of Budget 2021

The Executive Committee recommended to the General Assembly to revisit the budget 2021, i. a. to include costs for the website rebranding following a logo change.

Rapporteur on Action Against Cancer

The Executive Committee appointed Dr Daniel Heinrich as new CPME rapporteur on action against cancer.

Virtual General Assembly

The Executive Committee reviewed the agendas without proposing any amendments.

Policies

EU- UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and Mutual Recognition

The Executive Committee decided to keep action on the mutual recognition agreement (MRAs) framework on hold for the time being. Having consulted with the British Medical Association on its agenda regarding MRAs, it was decided to defer action and consider other steps.

Free flow of data and the EU – UK data adequacy agreement

The Executive Committee decided to co-sign the [European Stakeholder Group statement](#).

Roadmap for a new regulation establishing HERA

The Executive Committee decided to refer a draft statement on the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) to the working group on pharmaceuticals for further discussion.

Monitoring

The Commission launches the consultation process on HERA

The European Commission released a [roadmap](#) for a new regulation establishing the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). HERA will strengthen the coordination of operations across the whole value chain and develop strategic investments for research, development, manufacturing, deployment, distribution and use of medical countermeasures. The Authority is also a central element in the Commission's plan on building the [European Health Union](#). An additional public consultation on the regulation will follow still in the first quarter of the year. The WG Pharma is preparing a CPME response.

New European Cancer Plan

On 3 February, the European Commission published their new [Cancer Plan](#). With new technologies, research and innovation, it sets out a new EU approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care. It includes chapters on improving health literacy, achieving a tobacco-free Europe, reducing harmful alcohol consumption, improving access to healthy diets, promoting physical activity, reducing environmental pollution, and eliminating cervical and other cancers caused by HPV through vaccination. In practice, this will mean for example reviewing the Tobacco Products Directive and the Tobacco Taxation Directive, as well as revising the EU's air quality standards and proposing a mandatory labelling of the list of ingredients and calorie content and inclusion of health warnings on the label of alcoholic beverages. CPME has also highlighted the importance prevention in its 2020 statement and public consultation response. Moreover, the new cancer plan aims to ensure equal access to cancer care to reduce inequalities and improve early detection of cancer.

ECJ rules no exemptions for health professions from partial access

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) [has ruled](#) that the medical profession as a whole is not exempt from the "partial access" regime provided for in the Professional Qualifications Directive. It confirms that the Directive's wording, which exempts professionals benefitting from automatic recognition, but not professions from partial access, i.e. access to a limited scope of activities of a profession, is intentional. In addition, it confirms that requests for "partial access" may be reviewed individually and denied if justified for example for reasons of public health. The court argued that this option to deny access to individual professionals was in fact a confirmation that the Directive does not foresee blanket exemptions for any profession. This means, that doctors and other professionals benefitting from automatic recognition of their professional qualifications under the Directive are exempt from partial access, however a doctor whose qualifications do not qualify for automatic recognition may seek partial access.

Nutri-Score divides countries

France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands have [teamed up](#) to support the Nutri-Score front-of pack (FOP) nutrition labelling scheme. At the same time, countries like Italy, Greece and Sweden have criticised it. Of the Brussels NGOs, the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) has given its support to Nutri-Score. However, they have said that the scheme could be further improved. The Commission will prepare a legislative proposal on the harmonised and mandatory FOP nutrition labelling at EU-level by the end of 2022.

Eurobarometer 506: Attitudes of Europeans towards tobacco and e-cigarettes

On 5 February, a new [Eurobarometer on attitudes of Europeans towards tobacco and e-cigarettes](#) was published. It concludes that 23% of respondents currently smoke. Younger respondents (15-24) were more likely to have tried e-cigarettes. An increasing number of respondents are reporting seeing tobacco ads on online social networks. Moreover, 70% support banning the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free zones but flavour bans for e-cigarettes and plain packaging for tobacco products are not as popular (47%).

26th - 30th of April 2021: International Conference on Physician Health

The British medical Association, in collaboration with the American Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association, will be hosting the joint ICPH 2021 event with the aim to support doctors and medical students in the effort to create better working environments. More information on the event is available [here](#).

CPME News

CPME social media

Follow us on:

[Twitter](#)

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Coalition for Vaccination manifesto on COVID-19 vaccines

On 9 February 2021, the European Coalition for Vaccination, co-chaired by CPME, published a [manifesto](#) to encourage healthcare professionals to get vaccinated against COVID-19. It has been disseminated widely by the Coalition [members](#). CPME invites also all the national medical associations to share it on their websites and social media channels. The Coalition, convened by the European Commission in 2019, brings together European associations of healthcare professionals and relevant student associations in the field.

CPME issues a Statement on the European Health Data Space

On 2 February 2021, the CPME Executive Committee adopted a statement on the European Health Data Space, providing feedback to the Commission's initial consultation.

CPME stresses that the proposal should define what is to be considered "innovation for the public good" to avoid abuse and misuse. It also highlights that in medical research, the GDPR is not sufficient to address the processing of health data for secondary use. The principles of the Declarations of [Helsinki](#) and [Taipei](#) have to be complied with as well- Moreover, no one should be discriminated against because of their genome, which is why the use of genetic data for insurance credit, criminal justice, education or employment purposes should never be allowed. Ethical objections from patients will also need to be taken into account. In addition, where the use of AI in healthcare can cause death, injury or human harm, AI should be considered of high-risk. Finally, sector specific legislation on AI in health should exist.

Please see the statement [here](#).

CPME meets OECD to discuss data, preparedness, digital skills

CPME Secretariat met with the Health Division of OECD to discuss policy planning on the COVID-19 and digital skills. OECD is interested in several points raised in the CPME recommendations for pandemic preparedness, not least the criticism raised as regards OECD data. On this point, there is an offer to meet with CPME members to give information on the data collection process at OECD and discuss concerns. OECD is also interested in discussing the proposal as to ratios of resources per population, and the idea of establishing an observatory. OECD are also looking into the backlog of treatments and the roll-out of vaccines. On digital skills, the CPME Policy on Digital Competencies for Doctors was presented. OECD welcomed the points raised and would like to stay in touch on this topic. Please find a full meeting report at [CPME Info 022-2021](#).

Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices

CPME and several other stakeholders from different fields have been invited to the EU process to develop a [Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices](#) which is one of the first deliverables of the Commission's new Farm to Fork Strategy. It will set out the actions that food processors, food service operators and retailers can voluntarily commit to undertake to improve and communicate their sustainability performance. These actions can be relevant and implementable within their own operations or may encourage collaboration with industry peers and other food system stakeholders (such as farmers and consumers) to make similar changes. The aim is to have the Code of Conduct ready for signature and endorsement by interested parties in June 2021.

Ceremony to commemorate healthcare professionals

We invite you to rewatch last week's ceremony hosted by the Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri (FNOMCeO) to commemorate the doctors and other health professionals who have lost their lives to COVID-19: please find a recording of the full event [here](#) and a video of the CPME President's speech at the ceremony [here](#).

Summary video „Doctors going digital: How to future-proof skills“

Apart from the [recording](#) of the conference which took place in November 2020, jointly hosted by the German Medical Association and CPME, a summary video is, as announced, now available to watch [here](#).

Recent publications on the CPME Website

Members' section:

[The European Medicines Agency \(EMA\) Presentation on Safety Aspects of COVID-19 Vaccines – February 2021](#)

[Report of the WHO Consultation on European immunization Agenda 2030 – 9 February 2021](#)

[CPME Statement on the Combined Evaluation Roadmap / Inception Impact Assessment on a European Health Data Space](#)

[Report on Public Hearing of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer with regard to Launch of the European Cancer Plan and Debate with Commissioner Kyriakides – 4 February 2021](#)

[MEP group's letter in favor of e-cigarettes](#)

[CPME Monthly Bulletin – January 2021](#)

CPME news section:

[Event recap: “Doctors going digital: How to future-proof skills” – Summary video](#)

[CPME issues a Statement on the European Health Data Space](#)

[CPME endorses the Joint Statement of the Digital Doc Thematic Network: Training future-proof doctors for the digital society](#)

[CPME endorses Joint Statement on the EUHPP Thematic Network: profiling and training healthcare workers of the future](#)

[The Coalition for Vaccination calls to get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)

[European doctors welcome the new European cancer plan](#)