

### Message from the CPME President:

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the CPME newsletter which is a special edition with outcomes from the CPME Board and General Assembly meetings that took place in Budapest on 15 November 2014.

The CPME General Assembly voted in favour of the membership application of the French National Order of Doctors/ Conseil National des Ordres des Medecins (CNOM) effective as of 1 January 2015.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Hungarian Medical Chamber and the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists as they celebrate 25 years of re-establishment as an independent professional association. It is a milestone worthy of celebration and we are proud to count them as an integral part of the European family of doctors.

The CPME Board adopted transparency guidelines concerning relations between physicians and the healthcare industry, a position on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a policy statement concerning the Ebola virus and it renewed its commitments concerning action on alcohol-related harm as well as diet and physical activity.

We also welcome the new European Commission which started on 1 November 2014, including the new Commissioner for Health policy, Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis, a physician himself and are confident about a positive cooperation. Certainly, we continue to remind that health technologies should remain within DG Santé.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and wish you and your family a healthy and relaxing winter holiday season.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Katrin Fjeldsted



## OUTCOMES OF THE CPME BOARD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 15 NOVEMBER 2014 -

On 15 November, the CPME Board adopted the following statements:

- The 'CPME policy on the Transatlantic Trade and Partnership Agreement (TTIP)' ([CPME 2014/076 FINAL](#)).  
**Further information on page 2**
- CPME Guidelines on the Transparency of Relationships between Physicians and the Healthcare Industry ([CPME 2014/055 FINAL](#)).  
**Further information on page 3**
- The 'CPME Statement on Ebola Virus Disease and Pandemic Preparedness' ([CPME 2014/079 FINAL](#)).  
**Further information on page 3**
- The 'CPME Commitments to the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health 2014-2015' ([CPME 2014/077 FINAL](#)).  
**Further information on page 7**
- The 'CPME Commitments to the European Alcohol and Health Forum 2014-2015' ([CPME 2014/078 FINAL](#)).  
**Further information on page 7**

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### UPCOMING BOARD, GENERAL ASSEMBLY & WG MEETINGS

- ⇒ 22 - 23 May 2015, Reykjavik
- ⇒ 30 - 31 October 2015, Brussels
- ⇒ 8 - 9 April 2016 (tbc)
- ⇒ 25-26 November 2016, Brussels (tbc)



## 2014-2019: THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The new European Commission took office on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. The College of Commissioners consists of 28 members, including President Jean-Claude Juncker, 7 Vice-Presidents and the High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy. The Commissioners represent the political leadership of the European Commission and they are appointed for a 5-year mandate, until November 2019 ([organisation chart](#) and [Commissioners' responsibilities](#)). The new way of working of the European Commissioners is in 4 main project teams, each led by a Vice-President: 1) Energy Union with a forward-looking Climate Change Policy, 2) Jobs, Growth, Investment & Competitiveness, 3) Digital Single Market and 4) a deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Frans Timmermans is in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. His portfolio is to bring reform to the way of working of the European Commission. Mr Timmermans affirmed that 'subsidiarity has to be at the heart of the democratic process' and the objective is to be 'big on big things and small on small things' ([EP Hearing Written Answers](#), pg 5 par 3).

Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis, medical doctor and former Health Minister of Lithuania (2012-2014), is the newly appointed Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. CPME welcomes Dr Andriukaitis in his new function and looks forward to a good working collaboration. Further information on Dr Andriukaitis and his responsibilities are available [here](#). It is to be noted that unlike the portfolio for Pharmaceuticals which will stay under the competence of the Health Commissioner, the portfolio for Health technology and Cosmetics, which comprises Medical devices, will be under the responsibility of Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship

and SMEs. CPME had joined a campaign together with leading EU Health NGOs asking for both portfolios to remain under the mandate of Dr Andriukaitis.

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Constance Colin](#).

## EUROPEAN DOCTORS ADOPT A POSITION ON TTIP

The negotiations between the European Union and the United States for a 'Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)' have made headlines across Europe. While the secrecy of negotiations leaves many questions as to the specific content of the agreement unanswered, the information available has indicated that healthcare will be affected. At its meeting on 15 November, the CPME Board therefore adopted the '[CPME policy on the Transatlantic Trade and Partnership Agreement \(TTIP\)](#)'. While CPME recognises the benefits of the economic growth the



TTIP promises to deliver, the need to safeguard high quality healthcare is vital. To this end, CPME calls for the effective protection of the EU and national level legislation and regulation relating to health. CPME warns that investors' interests must not have precedence over Member States' competence to regulate their healthcare systems. Also, the division of competences between the European Union and Member States precludes the inclusion of healthcare services in the agreement. CPME therefore calls for a carve-out for healthcare services from the scope of the TTIP. Lastly, CPME reiterates its call for transparency of negotiations and requests a public consultation for the final agreement. CPME will reach out to decision-makers to present the policy and looks forward to engaging in the further discussions.

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Sarada Das](#).



## TRANSPARENCY: PHYSICIANS & THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

On 15 November 2014, the CPME Board adopted guidelines on the transparency of relationships between physicians and the healthcare industry ([CPME 2014/055 FINAL](#)). The CPME guidelines are addressed to all physicians practicing in Europe.

The guidelines recognise the importance of collaboration between the medical profession and the healthcare industry, notably in the field of medical research. Pharmaceutical products, medical devices and other health and eHealth technologies are developed by companies which often need the experience, expertise and knowledge of physicians who use the products on a daily basis to treat patients. This collaboration is essential for the benefit of patients and society as a whole.

However, the independence of a physician to prescribe certain drugs, use certain technologies and equipment should not be impaired by any commercial factors. Based on the premise that mutual trust between patients and physicians is paramount in the treatment context, the guidelines establish an ethical framework under which the relationships between physicians and commercial companies should be led. They are without prejudice to existing national regulations.

The guidelines are available [here](#).

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Constance Colin](#).

## COMBATING EBOLA: CPME CALLS FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION & SUPPORT

The outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa was discussed at the CPME Board meeting on 15 November. The current pandemic has claimed higher number of lives than previous outbreaks combined. To prevent a further spread of the disease, there is an urgent need for effective and coordinated action.

In the '[CPME Statement on Ebola Virus Disease and Pandemic Preparedness](#)', European doctors address the situation of healthcare professionals and the international response to pandemics. CPME commends the dedication of doctors and those healthcare professionals who are already working in the affected regions, and encourages physicians who have the necessary experience and training to support the fight against Ebola on the ground in the affected countries.

At the same time, CPME underlines the need for appropriate training and protection for all healthcare professionals working in these regions, from preparatory training to follow-up support.

To improve the international response to pandemics in future, the statement also recommends the adoption of an effective global strategy, which addresses the needs and roles of disease control bodies, health professionals, researchers, and the population. CPME hopes that international cooperation proves successful in combatting the disease and providing adequate treatment to patients. CPME will continue to monitor developments.

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Sarada Das](#).



## *25 Years Anniversary:* BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, HUNGARIAN MEDICAL CHAMBER, POLISH MEDICAL CHAMBER OF PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

The Standing Committee of European Doctors congratulates the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Hungarian Medical Chamber and the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists for celebrating 25 years of re-establishment as independent professional associations. They are an integral part of the European family of doctors.

### *The Bulgarian Medical Association*



The Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA) was founded in 1901 which makes it the second professional medical association in the world, right after the British Medical Association (1832). However, over the communist years the BMA was forced to close down: its properties were confiscated while its activists became subject to various persecutions. The gradual reintegration of the profession started immediately after the democratic changes in 1989. The first step was the creation of 28 autonomous regional associations that provided a basis for the restoration of the national Bulgarian Medical Association.

The Bulgarian Medical Association celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Restoration on the 19 October 2014, during the National Day of the Physician in Bulgaria. The BMA also took the chance to celebrate the Day of St. [Ivan Rilski](#), known as the Miracle Worker and recognised as the Patron of Bulgaria. On the occasion, the BMA initiated and promoted a charity campaign in support of the Fund for Medical Treatment of Children.

The guests that attended the celebration included CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted, the Secretary General Ms Birgit Beger, representatives of patient organisations, other healthcare professional organisations, public figures and other relevant representatives. On the occasion, many doctors were honoured for several merits, in particular for having actively participated to the restoration of the medical association or for scientific and medical research merits. The "Doctor of the Year 2014" prize was awarded to Assoc. Prof. Dr Krum Katsarov, Head of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department of the Military Medical Academy in Sofia.

### *The Hungarian Medical Chamber*



On 28 and 29 November 2014, the Hungarian Medical Chamber (MOK) celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Restoration, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since it has been recognised as public body.

The history of the MOK started in 1936, when the Hungarian Ministry of Interior issued the so called Medical Governance, an official act aiming to help resolve challenges arising within the medical professional community and between professionals and society. It made the chamber membership compulsory for practicing MDs and allowed representatives of MDs to solve professional and ethical issues. The political changes of 1945 swept away the National Medical Chamber, however the challenges remained. In 1959, a new Medical Govern-

ance was issued and remained effective until the 1990's.



~ Continued from page 4

In 1989, a group of enthusiastic medical doctors proposed the reestablishment of the Hungarian Medical Chamber in the form of an association. The following years brought a great political change to the country and the majority of medical doctors viewed the reestablishment of the Medical Chamber as a symbol of change. Dr András Veér was one of its founders and the first President. During the fall of 1994, the Parliament passed the Act on chambers, according to which the Hungarian Medical Chamber became a public body and membership was made compulsory for all practicing physicians.

The celebration opened with a gala dinner and a delightful concert performing pieces from Vivaldi and Mozart. The day after, the official ceremony started with a speech of Dr István Éger, President of MOK. He welcomed the guests from abroad, the members of other professional chambers and the representatives of health care institutions. The Hungarian Health Secretary of State was also present and in his speech he outlined the recent changes in healthcare as well as the future goals and financial plans.

Several invitees attended the celebrations, in particular Dr Jacques de Haller, CPME Vice-president and Ms Birgit Berger, CPME Secretary General together with Dr Reiner Brettenthaler, from the Austrian Medical Chamber and Dr Hrvoje Sobat, President of the Croatian Medical Association.

### *The Polish Medical Chamber of Physicians and Dentists*



The Polish (Supreme) Chamber of Physicians and Dentists (Naczelna Izba Lekarska) and the regional chambers of physicians and dentists (okręgowe izby lekarskie) are the independent organisational bodies of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners in Poland. The chambers of physicians were set up in independent Poland in 1921 (Supreme Chamber and 7 regional chambers) and the chambers of dentists in 1938. They have been dissolved by the German occupation administration at the end of 1939. In 1945, after World War II, the chambers were reactivated, but in 1952 under the communist rule were again abolished. Following the democratic changes, on 17 May 1989 the Law on Chambers of Physicians and Dentists was passed by the

parliament and the joint self-government of medical doctors and dental practitioners was reactivated. 2014 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its re-establishment.

Every physician and every dental practitioner authorised to practice the profession in Poland is a member of one of the regional chambers. The chambers on the one hand represent and protect their members, on the other hand act as regulatory authorities for both professions. They fulfil their obligations independently from any direct political influence, within the frames of law and for the benefit of the physicians, dentists and their patients.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists will celebrate its anniversary in Warsaw, on 6 December 2014. After the official opening of the event in the morning, all the invitees will participate to a holy mass especially performed for the Polish physicians and dentists, and to a Gala concert and dinner. Dr Katrín Fjeldsted, President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors will also attend this special event.

*For further information, please contact:*

[Miriam D'Ambrosio](#).

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:



### THE WMA DECLARATION OF HELSINKI

In 1964 the World Medical Association adopted in Helsinki *the Declaration on ethical principles applying to medical research involving human subjects*. On 11 November 2014, the world medical community gathered again in Helsinki to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this landmark document. CPME was represented there by its President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted and its Secretary General, Ms Birgit Beger.

The Declaration of Helsinki was adopted in reaction to the inhuman experiments conducted by physicians in concentration camps during World War II. Throughout the years, it has become a reference document worldwide for biomedical research. Primarily addressed to physicians, it has now acquired universal acceptance.

The Declaration of Helsinki is a living document: it was revised several times since its adoption in 1964, thus constantly adapting to the new challenges of medical research.

The Declaration defines ethical principles such as freedom of choice and informed consent, respect of confidentiality, finding the right balance between risks, burdens and expected benefits, protecting vulnerable individuals, ensuring that transparency requirements are met, as well as ensuring ethical use of placebo and unproven interventions. Over the years, the Helsinki Declaration has proven it is a strong instrument to protect human dignity of individuals participating in research, while facilitating advances in medicine.

The Declaration of Helsinki is available [here](#).

The WMA Press release issued for the occasion is available [here](#).

*For further information, please contact:*

[Constance Colin](#).

### ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: DOCTORS, DENTISTS & VETERINARIANS IN A CONTINUED COOPERATION

Antibiotic resistance has increased in the past years and constitutes a serious risk to public health. The lack of effectiveness of existing antibiotics combined with the lack of new antibiotic treatments, raises serious concerns and demands a joint response.

Being in direct contact with patients on a daily basis, primary care prescribers are best placed to advise on the use of antibiotics. With seven simple recommendations, European Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians raise awareness to primary care prescribers on the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics.

The CPME-FVE-CED recommendations, translated into all EU languages, are accessible [here](#).

On 17 November 2014, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted attended the stakeholders event organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the occasion of the European Antibiotics Awareness Day (EAAD). The theme for this year's event focused on self-medication with antibiotics. A toolkit aimed at the general public was published. It comprises a letter co-signed by Dr Katrín Fjeldsted and Dr Marc Sprenger, ECDC President.

The video-recording of the Stakeholders' EAAD event is available [here](#). The toolkit aimed at the general public on self-medication with antibiotics is available [here](#).

*For further information, please contact:*

[Constance Colin](#).



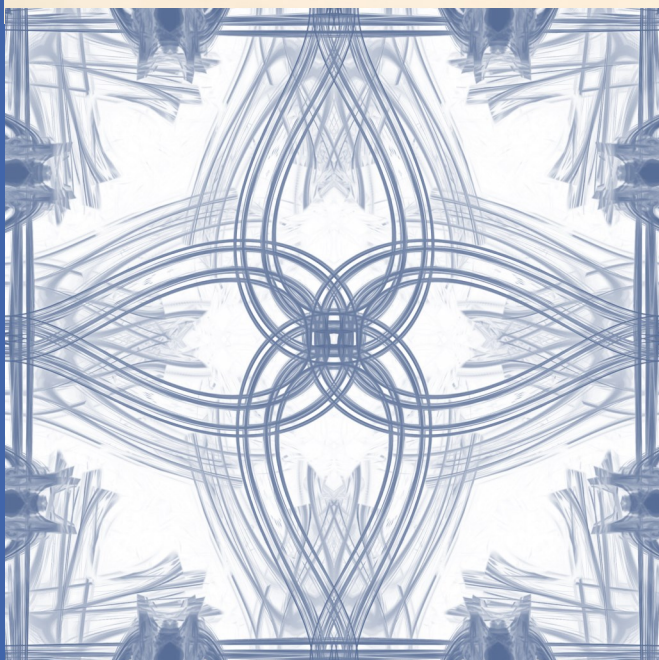
## CPME RENEWS COMMITMENTS TO ACTION ON ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM AND DIET & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Building on its long-standing activities on disease prevention and health promotion, CPME, at its meeting on 15 November, was pleased to renew its commitments to the 'European Alcohol and Health Forum' and the 'EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health', both hosted by the European Commission.

[CPME will continue to promote healthier lifestyles](#), i.a. through the consolidation and dissemination of a toolbox for the organisation of a 'Health Village', where information on diet, nutrition and physical activity is provided in an informal setting to raise awareness for healthy choices. To contribute to the reduction of alcohol-related harm, [CPME will implement action](#) calling for stricter controls of advertising and marketing of alcohol to children and young people.

In a second activity, aimed at improving the early diagnosis of alcohol-related harm, European doctors will also be supported in addressing harmful drinking, in particular in workplace settings. CPME looks forward to implementing the commitments and contributing to the promotion of a healthy Europe.

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Sarada Das](#).



## COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON PATIENT SAFETY

On 1 December, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council at Minister of Health level adopted conclusions on '[Patient Safety and Quality of Care, Including the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance](#)'.

CPME welcomes the continued support for the EU Network on Patient Safety and Quality of Care, emphasized on several occasions the need to ensure a sustainable and valuable cooperation and exchange of best practices in the area of patient safety. Every patient should enjoy the highest quality of care attainable and CPME's Mission Statement set this goal at the core of the European doctors' aims and intentions.

As a partner of the Joint Action on Patient Safety and Quality of Care as well as a partner in previous EU projects dedicated to this goal, a signatory of the Declaration of Luxembourg on Patient Safety, CPME supports action in this policy area and the conclusions of the EPSCO Council are a positive response for continued action.

*For further information, please contact:*  
[Anamaria Corca](#).



## EU Institutional News

- 4-5 December Under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the second conference of the Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting will take place in Rome, Italy. Whereas the first conference allowed for introducing the Action and the work in progress, this second conference will allow for sharing the first results. The meeting expects a wide participation of stakeholders involved in health workforce planning processes. More information available on the Joint Action's [website](#).
- 16-18 December European Conference 'Youth Mental Health: from the continuity of psychopathologies to the continuity of treatments'. More than 75% of mental disorders occur within the 25<sup>th</sup> year of age and affect young people, who represent 27% of the world population. Given that mental disorders occur during the growing stage up to adulthood, it is timely to reflect on the adequacy of mental health services for children, adolescents and adults. The conference aims at increasing healthcare professionals' awareness and knowledge about issues and opportunities to promote the development of models designed to guarantee the continuity and specificity of care. The conference venue is San Servolo Congress Centre - Isola di San Servolo, Venice, Italy. Further information is available [here](#).
- 18-19 December The European Council will meet to discuss its working agenda. In particular, the President of the Commission, Mr Juncker, and the High Representative will present the measures taken to respond to the Ebola crisis. More info is available [here](#).
- 18-19 December The Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU will organise an 'International Conference on Medical Devices' in Rome. Please see [here](#) further information.
- 22-23 December A conference on antimicrobial resistance will take place in Rome, Italy, under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU. A recent WHO report (April 2014) highlights how antimicrobial resistance is a global issue and also that appropriate antimicrobial resistance monitoring and control systems are insufficiently widespread. The issue should be addressed in the context of the "One Health" perspective, a cross-cutting approach involving human and veterinary public health, as well as industry sectors such as the food industry. This approach will be the one to characterize this event. The conference venue is Auditorium of the Ministry of Health - 5, Viale Giorgio Ribotta, Rome. Further details are available [here](#).



## CPME Meetings 2015-2016 SAVE THE DATES!

Reykjavik  
22-23 May 2015

Brussels  
30-31 October 2015

tbc  
8-9 April 2016

Brussels (tbc)  
25-26 November 2016





## Editorial Board

Birgit Beger  
CPME Secretary General

Sarada Das  
Senior EU Policy Advisor

Constance Colin  
EU Policy Advisor

Miriam D'Ambrosio  
Communication & Project Officer

Kristina Mickevičiūtė  
CPME Intern - EMSA Permanent Officer to CPME

## Editor

Anamaria Corca  
EU Policy Advisor

## *Guest commentary*

*For feedback, further information, questions or to express an interest to contribute to future editions, please contact:*

Anamaria.Corca@CPME.eu



## CPME Mission Statement

*The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.*

- We believe the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare should be a reality for everyone. To achieve this, CPME promotes the highest level of medical training and practice, the safe mobility of physicians and patients, lawful and supportive working conditions for physicians and the provision of evidence-based, ethical and equitable healthcare services. We offer support to those working towards these objectives whenever needed.*
- We see the patient-doctor relationship as fundamental in achieving these objectives and are committed to ensuring its trust and confidentiality are protected while the relationship evolves with healthcare systems. Patient safety and quality of care are central to our policies.*
- We strongly advocate a 'health in all policies' approach to encourage cross-sectoral awareness for and action on the determinants of health, to prevent disease and promote good health across society.*

*CPME's policies are shaped through the expertise provided by our membership of national medical associations, representing physicians across all medical specialties all over Europe and creating a dialogue between the national and European dimensions of health and healthcare.*



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS

