

## Message from the CPME President:



Dear colleagues and friends,

*It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you the latest CPME meetings' outcomes. This edition presents the results of the CPME Board and General Assembly meeting of 5 April as well as two reports from the CPME conference on 'Better Working Conditions for Better Care' and the joint event with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE): 'Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe: Doctors and Veterinarians emphasise "prevention is better than cure".'*

*The CPME Board adopted several policies in response to recent EU developments: on Value Added Tax (VAT), on mental health at the workplace and last but not least a response to the consultation on health workforce skills.*

*The CPME General Assembly voted on two new applications to join CPME. We are happy to welcome the Turkish Medical Association who joined CPME as Associate Member and the new CPME Associate Organization, the European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security (EUMASS). Further information on both organizations is available on the [CPME website](#).*

*The CPME Newsletter also includes latest updates concerning the CPME Manifesto for the upcoming European elections. We are preparing for the coming months until the European elections and European doctors express their core message for a health agenda in the coming mandates. The CPME Manifesto is open for endorsement and may be consulted [here](#).*

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Katrín Fjeldsted

## OUTCOMES OF THE CPME BOARD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 5 APRIL 2014 -

**On 5 April, the CPME Board adopted the following statements:**

- CPME response to the public consultation on a 'European Area of Skills and Qualifications' ([CPME 2014/021](#))
- CPME response to the public consultation on the review of existing VAT legislation on public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest ([CPME 2014/016](#))
- CPME Policy on Mental Health at the Workplace — from the perspective of a practising physician ([CPME 2013/098](#))

**On 5 April, the CPME General Assembly voted on two applications to join CPME:**

- The Turkish Medical Association joined CPME as an Associate Member.
- The European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security (EUMASS) joined CPME as an Associated Organisation.

## UPCOMING BOARD, GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WG MEETINGS

- ⇒ 14 - 15 November 2014, Budapest
- ⇒ 27 - 28 March 2015, Reykjavik
- ⇒ 30 - 31 October 2015, Brussels

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## CPME comments on the ‘European Area of Skills and Qualifications’



Professional mobility is a cornerstone of CPME policy. Ensuring that there are clear frameworks for the recognition of doctors’ qualifications in other Member States is an essential prerequisite. In light of the increasing numbers of EU-level initiatives addressing skills and qualifications, the CPME Board at its meeting on 5 April 2014 adopted a response to the public consultation on the ‘European Area of Skills and Qualifications’. This statement highlights the need to respect Member States’ competences relating to the training and education of healthcare professionals and ensuring there is no ambiguity as regards the framework for cross-border mobility of qualifications. CPME is monitoring various projects in this area, including the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) initiative.

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

## CPME response to the review of existing VAT legislation on public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest

At its meeting on 5 April 2014, the CPME Board adopted a [response to the public consultation on the EU legislative framework on value added tax](#). The consultation is taking place in the context of a review of the existing system of exemptions for services in the public interest. The CPME response reaffirms that access to high quality healthcare is a patient right which must be safeguarded by the legal and economic framework. CPME therefore supports the maintenance of the exemption of healthcare services from the VAT regime. At the same time, CPME encourages a review of the VAT burden on practitioners and the healthcare system who are obliged to absorb VAT expenditure, which has implications for the overall health budget.

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



### CPME News

◆ On 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014, Dr Erszébet Podmaniczky took part in “European Medicines Agency Human Scientific Committees’ Working Party with Patients’ and Consumers’ Organisations (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals Working Party (HCPWP) joint meeting” organized by European Medicines Agency in London, UK.

◆ On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, CPME Secretary General Birgit Beger attended conference “Health in Europe, making it fairer” organized by European Commission in Brussels. The conference aimed to highlight current issues on fairness in health, access to health and discrimination in health in Europe; to exchange information on policies and good practice in improving fairness and equity in health and combating discrimination and to propose conference conclusions on common basic principles and values on improving equity and combating discrimination in health.

◆ On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted attended Stakeholder and WHO Consultation “Leadership for Change: how to design and manage Coordinated/Integrated Health Services Delivery (CIHSD)” Delivery transition session of the CIHSD in Brussels.

◆ This first EU summit on chronic diseases has taken place in Brussels. The agenda covered medical, social and economic benefits of sustainable investments in health, ways to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and how to strengthen the prevention and management of chronic diseases, with a focus on EU added value and action. Prof. Dr Gelu Onose, CPME Chair WG Healthy ageing and Rapporteur on Chronic conditions management participated in the summit. More information [here](#).

## Mental Health at the Workplace - CPME on effective prevention and treatment

Following recent studies on the increasing prevalence of mental ill health, in particular depression, among the working age population, there is increasing awareness for the impact of the workplace environment on mental health. In response to this discussion, the CPME Board at its meeting on 5 April 2014 adopted the 'CPME Policy on Mental Health at the Workplace'. This builds on [past policies](#) CPME has adopted on occupational health and reaffirms European doctors' commitment to promoting good practice. The policy discusses the prevention of mental ill health, as well as its diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. By identifying workplace- and employment-related risk factors to mental health, the policy discusses approaches to mitigating risks and creating organisational structures to protect mental health. Similarly the potential benefits of work environments and employment are highlighted. The policy also calls for a better involvement of and coordination between doctors in the prevention and treatment of mental health problems, underlining in particular the important role of occupational physicians.

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

## CPME discusses 'Better Working Conditions for Better Care', 4 April 2014

On 4 April 2014, CPME hosted a conference on '[Better Working Conditions for Better Care –Discussing responsible health system policy](#)'. This event provided a platform for the discussion of national experiences of working conditions for doctors from a physicians' and patients' perspective, as well as a reflection of European initiatives addressing the situation. A keynote address by Dr Stéphane Vandam, Public Health Officer at WHO-Europe, set the scene for discussions by illustrating the migration flows between European countries and policy approaches proposed to re-balance migration. Accounts of doctors' training and employment situation in Estonia, Greece and Romania were complemented with patient experiences from Bulgaria. In a second session, representatives of European level policy-making and projects offered ideas on promoting cooperation between Member States to improve both working conditions and quality of care. CPME was honoured to welcome Commissioner Tonio Borg at the closing of the event. Commissioner Borg illustrated the various policy initiatives the European Commission is currently engaged in, highlighting the need for cooperation with stakeholders to improve outcomes.

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



# Commissioner Tonio Borg, CPME conference on *'Better Working Conditions for Better Care'* - 4 April 2014 -

**Tonio Borg**

Member of the European Commission, responsible for Health

**Commissioner Borg delivers speech on responsible health systems, the health workforce, and patient care**

For the full speech of Commissioner Borg, please click [here](#).

Check Against Delivery  
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi  
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort



From left to right: CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted and Commissioner Tonio Borg

Tonio Borg, European Commissioner for Health, attends the Annual Conference of the Standing Committee of European Doctors

Brussels, Belgium, 04 April 2014

## 'One Health' conference: Doctors and veterinarians emphasise 'Prevention is better than cure'



Building on the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed in 2013, CPME was pleased to collaborate with the [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe \(FVE\)](#) on a joint conference entitled '[Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe: Doctors and Veterinarians emphasise "prevention is better than cure"](#)'. With the support of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, both organisations discussed practice and policy approaches to promoting disease prevention, highlighting areas in which collaboration between the animal and human health sector provide added value, for example infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. The conference discussions showed the benefits for

creating structures for cooperation both at practitioner-level and at political level in order to improve healthcare and health outcomes. CPME looks forward to future joint activities to enhance cooperation on these important topics.

For further information, please contact:

[Sarada Das](#).



## CPME exchange of views with Dr Gianni Pittella, Vice-President of the European Parliament



From left to right: Dr Gianni Pittella, S&D, Vice-President of the European Parliament; Dr Katrin Fjeldsted, CPME President

On 2 April 2014, CPME President, Dr Katrin Fjeldsted and CPME Secretary General, Ms Birgit Beger, had a bilateral discussion with Dr Gianni Pittella, Vice-President of the European Parliament. Dr Fjeldsted presented the CPME Manifesto, launched in view of the upcoming European elections on 22-25 May 2014. She presented the main action points of the document, emphasizing the necessity to ensure the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare for everyone. The Vice-President of the European Parliament shared the doctors' concerns about economic restraints for healthcare budgets. He is already working hard to fight this austerity policy and promised that, after the elections, he will prioritise further promotion of health and especially, prevention. The CPME President, Dr Katrin Fjeldsted, explained also the importance of professional autonomy, in particular the possibility for doctors to provide healthcare in the best interest of patients.

At the end of the fruitful meeting, Dr Gianni Pittella signed the CPME Manifesto. He declared that he will support the action points of the document within his political and institutional activities and expressed his willingness for further meetings to continue his commitment and support public health goals.

For further information, please contact:

[Miriam D'Ambrosio](#)

## Express your support towards high quality healthcare: Sign the CPME Manifesto today!



In view of the upcoming European elections on 22-25 May 2014, the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), representing the National Medical Associations of 33 countries in Europe, takes once more the opportunity to ask your support for the Manifesto (available [here](#)).

The CPME Manifesto, developed together with the CPME members, mainly emphasises the principle of 'health in all policies', a strategy that encourages cross-sectorial awareness for and action on determinants of health, prevention of disease and promotion of good health across society. Moreover, it refers to the right to quality of care and patient safety, access to health, healthcare budget considerations and professional autonomy of physicians.

You can sign the Manifesto accessing the new section, entirely dedicated to the Manifesto, on the CPME website (available [here](#)). It contains a presentation of the document and a short survey inviting people to explain how do they intend to support the CPME document.

The Standing Committee of European Doctors thanks you for your support to the Manifesto and for your commitment to the CPME work towards a safe and better Europe for all citizens.

For further information, please contact:

[Miriam D'Ambrosio](#)

## Clinical trials regulation: worrying shift on informed consent

On 2 April 2014, the European Parliament voted in favour of the agreement with Council on the Clinical trials regulation (2012/0192(COD)).

Several steps forward have certainly been achieved, such as the inclusion of ethics committees and the recognition of their role in the approval process: a clinical trial shall start only after the responsible ethics committee approved the trial protocol. The new regulation also guarantees strong transparency rules. Among other things, all trials results, whether positive, negative or inconclusive, shall be made public.

Regrettably though, the concept of informed consent was substantially weakened. The regulation introduces special derogations to informed consent. The new provisions introducing a broad consent in Article 28 (2a) and "simplified means" for informed consent in Article 30, are contrary to all internationally agreed ethical standards, such as the WMA Declaration of Helsinki.

Basic principles of medical ethics, such as informed consent, should not be weakened. This is a question of guaranteeing patients their right to self-determination and autonomy. CPME will continue to monitor developments, notably in the context of negotiations on the data protection regulation.

The CPME-WMA joint press release issued after the vote, is available [here](#).

For further information, please contact:

[Constance Colin](#).



## Data protection in the EU: still a long road ahead of us

On 12 March 2014, the European Parliament adopted two crucial texts related to data protection.

The report on the data protection regulation was adopted at a large majority. CPME raised concerns especially on the issue of informed consent in the field of medical research. As for the clinical trials regulation, derogations to informed consent have been introduced. This constitutes a dangerous shift in the weakening of medical ethics applied for research (please see also article "Clinical trials regulation: worrying shift on informed consent").

Also, the approach taken on the right to be forgotten does not guarantee a sufficient level of flexibility for doctors to keep medical records for treatment purposes. The regulation should avoid creating situations where doctors will be restrained from the capacity to store medical records, hence putting the patients at a risk. Furthermore, the regulation should not impose unsustainable burdens on doctors, especially when they exercise in small and medium sized medical practices. The proposal of the European Parliament with regard to the data protection officer and the data protection impact assessment will definitely not ensure that.

The report on the electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens was also adopted on 12 March 2014. It establishes a European habeas corpus for digital rights and sets as a high level principle the protection of professional

secrecy. The medical profession welcomes this step forward and calls the EU institutions to ensure professional secrecy is effectively protected from surveillance programmes.

An open letter co-signed by CPME, CED and PGEU on these matters is available [here](#).

For further information, please contact:

[Constance Colin](#).



# CPME to adopt guidelines on transparency of the relationships between physicians and commercial companies

At its last Board meeting, CPME members agreed to start a drafting process for guidelines on transparency of the relationships between physicians and commercial companies. These guidelines will be based on the various experiences and regulations applying at national levels, as well as on previous CPME policies. They will seek to establish common standards of value on how to ethically cooperate with healthcare commercial companies. In 2005, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and CPME signed a Joint Declaration on the cooperation between the medical profession and the pharmaceutical industry ([CPME 2005/069 FINAL](#)) and in 2007 a Joint Declaration on cooperation between the physicians and the medical technology industry ([CPME 2007/028 FINAL](#)).

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



## CPME policy on eID for physicians: Let's implement it!

On 23 November 2014, the CPME Board adopted a policy "Ensuring the secure use of telemedicine and e-health applications in an integrated Europe - Towards a Common Policy Agreement on Electronic ID Systems for Physicians".

CPME is now in the second phase process of implementing the policy. This requires that the policy is upheld at national levels, either by the National Medical Associations or by the authorities entitled to issue the electronic ID for physicians. By doing so, one ensures that national



## Medical doctors' mobility: The perspective of European medical students



*"Free movement of workers is a fundamental principle of the Treaty enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and developed by EU secondary legislation and the Case law of the Court of Justice" – [European Commission](#).*

The issue of medical doctors' mobility has been an ongoing subject of discussion in the European Union, and in recent years, with more new member states joining the EU it has been an increasingly popular topic, regaining headlines in the media as EU Parliamentary elections of 2014 are approaching.

Migration of doctors and healthcare specialists has an immense impact on humanity, as healthcare is one of the fundamental grounds defining society. Societies who suffer from the low quality of healthcare are inevitably unable to achieve prosperity because human health directly relates to social, financial and educational outcomes. Main reasons for migration are usually named as following: higher salaries, better working conditions and career opportunities. Nevertheless, the economic factor alone almost never forces doctors to migrate – it is a complex of various issues or the outcome of all three reasons mentioned above.

Kristina Mickevičiūtė  
CPME Intern - EMSA Permanent Officer

# Healthy ageing: launch of pilot international survey



On 31 March the coalition on health literacy of functional decline and frailty led by Prof Dr Gelu Onose, Chair of CPME WG Healthy and Active Ageing, launched the first international pilot survey on the topic. This initiative is part of the [European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing](#) (EIPAHA). It started as an individual commitment to contribute to 'Prevention of frailty and functional performance (/capacity – see further) decline' related to ageing and under the auspices of the EIPAHA, it became a more advanced endeavor under the framework of the [A3 Action Group on Prevention of frailty and functional performance \(/capacity\) decline](#). The initiative will result in an assessment of the views, needs, benefits and barriers regarding health literacy (HL) on functional performance (/capacity) decline and frailty, related to ageing. The findings and the recommendations will constitute a unique tool to inform policies and decision-making at various levels. The two questionnaires are aimed at doctors and 60+ older adult patients. The [questionnaire for doctors](#) aims to assess the awareness of doctors on functional performance (/capacity) decline and frailty related to ageing and their possibilities to prevent/ delay the onset of these issues and/or mitigate their consequences. The [questionnaire for patients](#) also aims to assess the awareness, opinion and attitude of the population aged over 60 regarding healthy and active ageing. The surveys build on the conceptual framework of the [European Health Literacy Project \(HLS-EU\)](#).

For further information, please contact:  
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**The initiative is the result of voluntary work in partnership.**  
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**The coalition on Health Literacy of Functional Decline and Frailty Related to Ageing**





On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted took part in *CPME-FVE Conference: "Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe"*. The aim of the event was to bring together stakeholders, active in the medical and veterinary sector, to discuss on how we can work collaboratively in a One-Health approach. The purpose of this initiative is to highlight the importance of prevention, in order to ensure human and animal health and welfare.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted represented CPME at the "*European Gender Medicine Network's Conference*", at sub-session on implementation of Sex and Gender (S&G) in biomedicine and health research along with creation of a European Gender Health Network. The conference in Brussels was organized with key stakeholders in healthcare, education, policy making and research sector in order to develop a strategy for four planned EUGenMed workshops in 2014.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted represented CPME at the "*4th Global Transparency Reporting Congress*" in London, United Kingdom. This congress focused on industry best practices for tracking HCP data, creating a context for the information with effective communications, controlling spend on HCPs internally and through third parties, implementing efficient systems and aligning goals across the company or organization.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted represented CPME at the "*2nd European Health Literacy Conference*" in Aarhus, Denmark. The 2nd European Health Literacy Conference aimed to promote health literate populations and societies by sharing evidence-based research on health literacy measurement, interventions and policies; providing a platform for knowledge-exchange for professionals working in the field of health literacy in Europe stimulating wider collaboration and providing a cross-sectorial, interdisciplinary approach to health literacy by creating opportunities for capacity building and professionalization in policy, research and practice.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014, CPME Secretary General, Birgit Beger will represent CPME at the UEMS General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted will represent CPME at the Spring Meeting of European Working Group of Practitioners and Specialists in Free Practice (EANA) in Luxembourg.



## CPME Meetings 2014-2015 SAVE THE DATES!

November 2014		March 2015		October	2015
Budapest		Reykjavik		Brussels	
14	15	27	28	30	31



## EU Institutional News

14 March 2014	Following its formal approval by the European Parliament on 26 February, the Council has formally approved the revised law regulating tobacco products on the EU market. The new legislation will improve the functioning of the internal market for tobacco and related products. More information can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
02 April 2014	The European Parliament gave the green light to the agreement reached with the Council on the Clinical trials regulation. The press release CPME issued together with the World Medical Association (WMA) is available <a href="#">here</a> . Following the positive vote in the Parliament, the European Commission has released a <a href="#">Memo</a> explaining the new rules for clinical trials conducted in the EU.
02 April 2014	The first reading of the European Parliament on the medical devices and IVD medical devices dossiers was concluded. The following reports are available <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a> .
03 - 04 April 2014	This first EU summit on chronic diseases has taken place in Brussels. The agenda covered medical, social and economic benefits of sustainable investments in health, ways to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and how to strengthen the prevention and management of chronic diseases, with a focus on EU added value and action. Prof. Dr Gelu Onose, CPME Chair WG Healthy ageing and Rapporteur on Chronic conditions management participated in the summit. More information <a href="#">here</a> .
04 April 2014	In a Communication the European Commission has laid out an EU agenda for making Europe's health systems fit for facing current challenges and pressures. Please find <a href="#">here</a> the full text.
09 April 2014	The European Commission published a Green Paper on mobile health (mHealth). This discussion document launches a public consultation which will run until 2 July 2014. More information <a href="#">here</a> .
10 April 2014	The last meeting of the Global Health Policy Forum has taken place at the premises of the European Commission in Brussels. Child Health and Health Financing were the two topics for discussion. The agenda can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
12 - 14 May 2014	The eHealth Forum will take place in Athens, Greece, and will bring together a High-Level eHealth Experts' Conference on European Priorities, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, a meeting of the eHealth Network, the 4th EU-US eHealth Marketplace & Cooperation Assembly. Dr Konstanty Radziwiłł, CPME Immediate Past President, will attend the eHealth Forum. For further information please click <a href="#">here</a> .
22 - 25 May 2014	European Elections. More information for each country is available on the elections 2014 <a href="#">website</a> .
18 June 2014	The Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) is organising a Conference entitled "Frailty in old age, identifying priorities for an EU policy" in Brussels. The Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Brussels.

## Other news

2 - 3 June 2014	The LEFO Institute for Studies of the Medical Profession is organising the International symposium on doctors' professional satisfaction, quality of care, and governance of health care organizations at the Soria Moria Hotel & Conference Center, Oslo, Norway. For registration, preliminary program and further details, see LEFO's website: <a href="http://www.legeforsk.org">www.legeforsk.org</a>
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## 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

