



ISSUE

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Message from the CPME President:



Dear colleagues and friends,

The CPME Board and General Assembly met on 23 May in Reykjavik, Iceland. The event marked a new cycle of elections and I am proud and honoured of the outcome: we elected the new Executive Committee for the mandate 2016-2018, including the President-Elect, Dr Jacques de Haller (Switzerland) as a representative of European doctors from 29 National Medical Associations.

I will not dwell on the full details of results as you will find further details on page 2. I would simply congratulate the President elect, the four Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the new members of the CPME Board. Furthermore, I am equally delighted to welcome new members to the CPME, namely the Croatian Medical Association as full member and also EMSA (the European Medical Students Association) as our associated organisation with whom we co-operate most closely for many years. It is important that European doctors stand together and help to shape the future of Europe.

It is about Europe that I want to say a few words. My message to you, EU institution representatives, Commissioners, MEPs is a simple one: think forward but do not exclude the core of professional representation where it is most wanted. The fast pace of big reforms, the restructuring of governance at EU level should not be fragmented into hundreds of calls for expression of interest. CPME wants to continue the stable cooperation. The new proposals for restructuring the EU Health Policy Forum, the Patient Safety and Quality of Care Expert Group, the eHealth Joint Action should neither affect this cooperation, nor burden communication. Since 1959 we are contributing to public health, workforce and prevention policies, we owe it to patients, we owe it to the profession to represent them well and adequately, so it is our sincere hope to see this through and make our voice heard in the future and thus contribute to a healthy Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Katrin Fjeldsted

Dr Katrin Fjeldsted
CPME President

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GLENIS WILLMOTT
(S&D, UK):
MEDICAL DEVICES
AND TTIP.

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CPME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2018



Dr Jacques de HALLER

Switzerland
CPME President-Elect
2016-2018



Dr Patrick ROMESTAING

France
1st Vice-President



Dr Rutger van der GAAG

The Netherlands
2nd Vice-President



Dr Istvan ÉGER

Hungary
3rd Vice-President



Dr Bernard MAILLET

Belgium
4th Vice-President

Dear colleagues,

The CPME Board and General Assembly met in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 23 May 2015. A decisive element of legitimate and democratic professional associations is the holding of elections. Our General Assembly elected the CPME Board, President, four Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. The term of office starts on 1 January 2016 for a period of three years until 31 December 2018. Congratulations to the winning candidates!

Sincerely yours,

RA Birgit Beger
CPME Secretary General



**Prof. Dr Frank-Ulrich
MONTGOMERY**

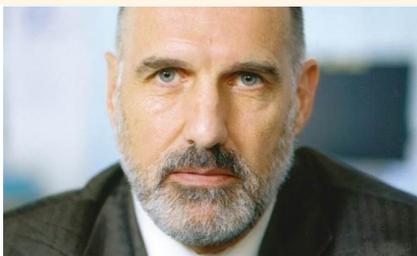
Germany
Treasurer

CPME BOARD

2016-2018

	Austria	Dr Reiner BRETTENTHALER		Ireland	Dr Neil BRENNAN
	Belgium	Dr Bernard MAILLET		Latvia	Dr Gunta ANCĀNE
	Bulgaria	Dr Yuliya BYANKOVA		Lithuania	Dr Daiva BROGIENĖ
	Croatia	Dr Hrvoje ŠOBAT		Luxembourg	Dr Claude SCHUMMER
	Cyprus	Dr Marios KARAIKAKIS		Malta	Dr Martin BALZAN
	The Czech Republic	Dr Milan KUBEK		The Netherlands	Prof. Dr Rutger Jan van der GAAG
	Denmark	Dr Andreas RUDKJØBING		Norway	Dr Hege GJESSING
	Estonia	Dr Indrek ORO		Poland	Dr Konstanty RADZIWIŁŁ
	Finland	Dr Heikki PÄLVE		Romania	Dr Mircea CİNTEZĂ
	France	Dr Patrick ROMESTAING		Slovakia	Dr Ludmila LYSINOVA
	Germany	Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich MONTGOMERY		Slovenia	Dr Andrej MOŽINA
	Greece	Dr Anastasios VASIADIS		Sweden	Dr Karin BÅTELSON
	Hungary	Dr István ÉGER		Switzerland	Dr Jacques DE HALLER
	Iceland	Dr Katrín FJELDSTED		The United Kingdom	Dr Terry JOHN

BIOGRAPHIC NOTE



Dr Jacques de HALLER

Switzerland
CPME President-Elect

Dr Jacques de Haller is the CPME President-elect with a term beginning 1st January 2016 until 31 December 2018. Dr Jacques de Haller was born in 1952; he graduated from Geneva University Faculty of Medicine in 1978 and specialised in Family Medicine (1983). He worked as a GP in Geneva for 21 years (1983-2004). He became President of the Swiss Association of General Practitioners for 4 years, in 2000. In 2004, he was elected President of the Swiss National Medical Association, until December 2012.

During his 8-year mandate, he developed the association – representing 97% of the Swiss doctors into becoming one of the major political lobbies in Switzerland. Correct tariffication, limitation of administrative burden on physicians, hurdle free access for all patients to the needed medical care, and the preservation of a patient-doctor relationship, the core of medicine in his view, free of state or insurance interventions, were the main accents of his national presidency. He was elected Vice-President of CPME in June 2012 and his activities in CPME include the areas of self-care, mental health, occupational health, physicians' health.

CPME SPRING MEETINGS: POLICY OUTCOMES

On 23 May 2015, the CPME Board adopted the following health policy statements:

- CPME position paper on rules regarding expiration dates of pharmaceuticals ([CPME 2014/074 Final](#)).
- CPME Position paper on Complementary and Alternative Treatments ([CPME 2013/130 FINAL](#)).
- CPME response to the WMA public consultation on the WMA Declaration on ethical considerations regarding health databases and biobanks ([CPME 2015/039 Final](#)).



Pascal Nohl-Deryk, EMSA
Policy-Making Officer
Athanasios Vaiopoulos, EMSA
Permanent Officer to CPME



Dr Hrvoje ŠOBAT
Croatian Medical Chamber, CPME Board
member-Elect

The same day, the CPME General Assembly voted unanimously in favour of full membership of the Croatian Medical Chamber to CPME.

The European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) was also acclaimed as the newest CPME Associated Organisation.



INTERVIEW—MEP GLENIS WILLMOTT (S&D, UK):
~THE WAY FORWARD ON MEDICAL DEVICES AND TTIP~



On the draft proposal for a regulation on medical devices – what are the main expectations as Rapporteur and in the coming triologue negotiations?

This is a huge, very technical piece of legislation, which covers a number of controversial issues, so we know that finding a compromise between the European Parliament's position and the position of 28 different Member States isn't going to be easy. My priority will be to find a sensible agreement – we need legislation that works and, most importantly, we need legislation that ensures the highest standards of patient safety.

A wide range of implementing and delegated acts are foreseen in the draft proposal for a regulation on medical devices. If the regulation is adopted in this format, do you have any worries concerning the transparency behind the follow-up on implementing and delegated acts?

Implementing and delegated acts are used to allow the Commission to determine certain technical details of legislation, which politicians simply don't have the necessary expertise to decide. Of course, we will have to be careful to ensure that this isn't used as a way for the Commission to make decisions that should be made at a political level and MEPs must play a key role in scrutinising any proposals to make sure they remain in the spirit of what was intended by the legislators.

What are the main benefits of the future regulation for European patients and doctors as main users of medical devices?

Our priority for this regulation has to be patient safety. Patients must be able to have confidence that devices being used on them, or implanted in them, have been properly scrutinised before being placed on the market, and that a rigorous system of post-market surveillance is in place to identify any unforeseen problems. We also want to make sure patients are given full information about devices implanted in them and that they can be easily traced through a Unique Device Identification (UDI) system. Clearly, patient safety is also the primary concern of medical practitioners, so it's equally important to have a system that they can be confident in, too. If we can build a more transparent system, doctors should be able to access more information about devices, allowing them to make informed decisions about which devices to use.

How would you see the TTIP negotiations impacting on medical devices in the European Union? Is there a possibility to foresee an alignment of standards? What would be the benefits or pitfalls on medical devices as a result of TTIP?

It's very difficult to say at this stage, as TTIP is still under negotiation and we won't know for a while what the final agreement will look like. However, Labour MEPs have been clear that TTIP shouldn't lead to a lowering of regulatory standards in the EU. The idea of establishing a transatlantic traceability system is certainly interesting in terms of making it easier for patients and doctors to get information on devices, but we would have to look very carefully at any proposals.

Interview carried out by:
[Anamaria Corca](#)

CPME DISCUSSES TTIP – WHAT WAY FORWARD FOR HEALTHCARE?



In a discussion of the CPME Board on 23 May 2015, CPME assessed the status quo of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement's approach on healthcare. Since the adoption of the [CPME policy on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement \(TTIP\)](#) in November 2014, the European Commission has made efforts to provide information and clarifications as to the agreement's scope and impact. Statements have indicated that TTIP will not prevent Member States from organising public services including health as they wish; also the regulatory competence to legislate to protect public interest objectives is not to be restricted. At the same time, the strong public

opposition to the proposals for an investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism as voiced by the public consultation has prompted the Commission to review its approach in this area. The CPME Board agreed on follow-up action to call on Member States to effectively safeguard their healthcare systems. The chair of the CPME WG on TTIP, Dr Heikki Pälve, summarised that *"Doctors do acknowledge the potential economic benefits this agreement can deliver, however it is important that there are no unintentional effects on healthcare. CPME will therefore continue to highlight the need for a special approach for this sector."*

For further information, please contact:

[Sarada Das](#)

HEALTH DATABASES & BIOBANKS: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

On 9 April, the World Medical Association (WMA) opened a public consultation on a draft declaration on ethical considerations regarding health databases and biobanks. The WMA draft declaration aims to clarify certain ethical aspects of the use of health data and material contained in large scale repositories. In particular, a governance structure is proposed for the use of data and material through a broad consent scheme. This new approach responds to the ever growing need to make the best use of information contained in repositories and to guarantee at the same time that individuals' rights are protected.

It is expected that the Declaration, when adopted, will become an important ethical guidance document for a constantly evolving research environment. In a letter to the WMA, CPME expressed its support for this initiative.

Please see here the CPME response to the consultation: [CPME 2015/039](#).

Additional information about the draft declaration and the open public consultation is available on the [WMA website](#).

For further information, please contact:

[Constance Colin](#).



'ONE HEALTH' - EUROPEAN DOCTORS RE-AFFIRM COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN VETERINARIANS

Following the successful cooperation established by a Memorandum of Understanding on action against antimicrobial resistance signed in 2013, the CPME Board, at its meeting in Reykjavík on 23 May 2015, adopted the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and CPME on the concept of 'One Health'. The memorandum reaffirms the cooperation on antimicrobial resistance and envisages collaboration on a broader set of topics including professional issues and the negotiations towards a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement. *"A strengthened exchange between the animal and human health sectors will improve policies' effectiveness and impact,"* FVE President Dr Christophe Buhot explained, *"by collaborating as professional organisations we look forward to promoting the 'One Health' approach for a healthier Europe."* CPME President Dr Katrín Fjeldsted also welcomed the consolidated basis for cooperation highlighting that *"veterinarians and doctors can now jointly highlight the importance and benefit of tackling issues from a 'One Health' perspective. Joining forces strengthens professionals' voice to strive for better healthcare."* One recent example of cooperation is CPME's participation in a panel debate at the FVE conference ['Natural disasters and One Health: Are we prepared?'](#) which took place in Brussels on 17 April 2015. The [conference conclusions](#) highlight that preparedness planning and disaster management must adopt a 'One Health' approach to ensure the effective protection of people and animals.

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



EXPIRATION DATES OF PHARMACEUTICALS: A CPME POSITION PAPER

On 23 May 2015, the CPME Board adopted the CPME position paper on rules regarding expiration dates of pharmaceuticals. Every year a large amount of pharmaceuticals is destroyed while most of them may still be usable. Since a big proportion of pharmaceuticals has a high potency long after the expiration date, if they are stored and handled the right way, one might assume that pharmaceuticals are destroyed despite the high quality of the products. The waste of these pharmaceuticals has both an environmental and economic impact.

The CPME position paper underlines the need for a reflection at EU level on this issue and calls upon the European Commission to consider the possibility of extending expiration dates for pharmaceuticals and thus revise the applicable rules.

The CPME position paper is available here : [CPME 2014/074](#).

For further information, please contact:

[Constance Colin](#)

WHAT OF COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS?

A recently published CPME position paper on complementary and alternative treatments informs the public, EU institutions and physicians of several guiding principles on this topic:

- **Misleading advertising and the right to information**

EU and national legislators within their respective competence should ensure that the trust of patients and citizens is not abused by permitting misleading information concerning efficacy of conventional medical treatment or of complementary or alternative treatments.

The public should be informed that traditional, alternative and complementary practices are not a specialty within medicine and therefore forms of certified training within these areas does not constitute specialist training.

- **Delay in diagnosis and associated risks**

Patients may be led into choosing to use traditional, complementary and alternative practices instead of medical treatment, resulting in a possible delay of proper scientific medical diagnosis and allowing their condition to worsen and in some cases leading to early death.

- **Vulnerable groups**

Physicians should be aware that some groups of patients, such as patients with cancer, psychiatric conditions or severe chronic illnesses and children are particularly vulnerable to risks associated with alternative practices. Where such situations occur, doctors should discuss it with their patients when using CAM treatments along with their existing medical treatment.

The CPME position paper on Complementary and Alternative Treatments is available here: [CPME 2013/130](#).

For further information, please contact:

[Anamaria Corca](#).



DISCUSSION GROUP ON HEALTH WITH DOCTOR MEPS



The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) together with MEP Dr Elena Gentile (S&D, IT) organised in February 2015 an informal discussion group on health for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who are medical doctors. The second roundtable event will take place on the **3rd of June 2015, at 18h00, Room A1E-1 at the European Parliament**. The primary goal of the discussion group, which aims to develop its activities

throughout the 5 year legislative period, is to defend and guarantee the right to health for a more healthy society, by sharing knowledge and expertise between Doctor MEPS and CPME.

The second roundtable will focus on relevant topics that the European Parliament has to address on a daily basis, such as Alcohol, Alzheimer, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), Ethical and transparent physicians-industry relationships and Standardisation.

For further information, please contact:

[Miriam D'Ambrosio](#)

JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN MEDICAL ORGANISATIONS ON CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Following the successful collaboration around the conference '[CPD – Improving healthcare](#)' in 2006, the European Medical Organisations (EMOs) are planning to hold a joint event in Luxembourg on 18 December 2015.

Save the date

STOA | European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment
Workshop on

Health Literacy in Europe

Empowering patients - how can technology contribute to improving health literacy?

European Parliament, Brussels
Wednesday 1 July 2015, 2.30-5.00pm

Featuring as speakers:

Paul Rübige MEP
Karin Kadenbach MEP
DG Connect, European Commission
The University of Maastricht
The European Patients' Forum
World Health Organisation
European Health Telematics Association

Invitations with a registration link will follow shortly. For any questions, please contact Barbara Gonzato:
Barbara.gonzato@hkstrategies.com

Moderated by Prof Helmut Brand, University of Maastricht



EU Institutional News

18-19 June	Brussels, Belgium. The meeting of the Council configuration on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) will discuss health relevant topics such as medical devices.
8 June	Brussels, Belgium. The meeting of the Patient Safety and Quality of Care WG at EU level will include representatives of EU MS, health professional representative organisations, patients and other relevant stakeholders. Further information, please see here .
3 June	Brussels, Belgium. Conference on ' Innovative Financing Opportunities for Active & Healthy Ageing ' This conference organised by DG Santé focuses on the issue of how to strengthen the public and private financial instruments and how to empower synergies related to active and healthy ageing.
01 June	Brussels, Belgium. Conference "Endocrine disruptors: criteria for identification and related impacts". The aim of the conference is to inform Member States, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), third countries representatives and stakeholders about the on-going impact assessment on criteria to identify endocrine disruptors and to provide a platform for further exchanges of views. For more information about the event, click here .
26 - 29 May	The Hague, the Netherlands. Meeting of the Joint ECDC/WHO Surveillance Network for Tuberculosis and Wolfheze Workshops. This workshop brings together experts from countries belonging to the WHO European Region and EU/EEA countries to discuss the common goal of eliminating TB in Europe. More info available here .



CPME Meetings 2015-2016 SAVE THE DATES!

Brussels
30-31 October 2015

Athens
13-14 May 2016

Brussels
25-26 November 2016

CPME NEWS

- ⇒ On 22-23 April 2015, CPME Vice President, Dr Milan Kubek, CPME Vice President, Dr István Éger, CPME Vice President, Dr Jacques de Haller and CPME Secretary General, RA Birgit Beger attended the European Forum of Medical Organisations and the World Health Organisation, in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- ⇒ On 7 May 2015, CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted, CPME Secretary General, RA Birgit Beger and Communication and Project Officer, Miriam D'Ambrosio met with Dr Roberta Chersevani (President of the Italian Medical Federation, FNOMCeO), in Rome, Italy.
- ⇒ On 8 - 9 May 2015, CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted attended the General Assemblies of AEMH - European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians, FEMS – European Federation of Salaried Doctors and EJD – European Junior Doctors, in Vienna, Austria.
- ⇒ On 10 May 2015, CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted and CPME Secretary General, RA Birgit Beger attended the European Medical Organisations' Presidents' Meeting, in Vienna, Austria.
- ⇒ On 11-13 May 2015, CPME Immediate Past President, Dr Konstanty Radziwill and EU Policy Advisor, Constance Colin attended the eHealth week in Riga, Latvia. The theme of this year's event was mHealth. During the week the mHealth Green Paper Stakeholders' Meeting was held and its aim was to discuss future policy actions on mHealth with stakeholders. These discussions were based on the results of the public consultation on the Green Paper on mHealth.



Editorial Board

Birgit Beger
CPME Secretary General

Sarada Das
Senior EU Policy Advisor

Constance Colin
EU Policy Advisor

Essi Saarto
CPME EU Policy Intern

Athanasios Vaiopoulos
CPME Intern - EMSA Permanent Officer to CPME

Editors

Anamaria Corca
EU Policy Advisor

Miriam D'Ambrosio
Communication & Project Officer



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.

