



PRESS RELEASE

3rd May 2013

“Between Europe’s health needs today and a vision for the future: CPME statements for a healthier European Union.”

CPME Board meeting 27th April 2013 – Dublin, Ireland

“The CPME meetings in Dublin reaffirmed the importance of doctors using their voice to safeguard the quality of healthcare in these difficult times and ensure future developments are built on sustainable policies. The opening conference dedicated to discussing health inequalities in Europe highlighted one important topic for action. CPME’s newly adopted policies similarly underline unmet needs of European citizens and set out a vision for the future, be it in eHealth, the management of chronic conditions, or the prevention of frailty. Also, we need to have concrete prevention policies, for instance by improving rates of childhood immunisation and tackling antimicrobial resistance.”

CPME President, Dr Katrín Fjeldsted

The Board of CPME also adopted statements on the situation of healthcare in **Cyprus** and **Greece**, expressing solidarity and support for their colleagues’ appeals against government action which threaten to impair the quality of and access to healthcare as well as doctors’ working conditions.

At the CPME Board meeting, the following policies were adopted:

- The **CPME Position Paper on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** calls upon health-care professionals, academics researchers, industry and national governments to join forces to renew and increase their efforts to tackle the threat of antibiotic resistant “superbugs”. CPME adopts recommendations to encourage the development of national guidelines to support the appropriate prescription and use of antibiotics.
- The **CPME Statement on the “eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020: innovative healthcare for the 21st century”** is a response to the Commission’s Communication of 6 December 2012. While eHealth is inevitably becoming part of medical practice and can produce potential benefits both for patients and physicians, eHealth should always be implemented in a patient-centred approach, with the full involvement of the medical profession and bearing in mind cost implications. Issues such as ethics, interoperability, security and legal clarity - notably in the mHealth sector - are also addressed.
- On 11 April 2013, **a follow up statement on Clinical trials** was also adopted by the CPME Working group on Pharmaceuticals. CPME continues to advocate for ethics committees to be introduced in the Regulation, as well as for stronger provisions on patient’s safety, a better recognition of the physicians’ role in the conduct of a trial and the guarantee of full transparency in the publication of the data.
- The **CPME Policy on Childhood Immunisation** underlines the importance and safety of prevention of communicable diseases through vaccination. CPME confirms its full support for the objective to eliminate measles and rubella in the European region by 2015 and maintain the region’s polio-free status. It calls upon doctors to act as advocates for immunisation according to national vaccination schedules and ensure evidence-based information reaches the community, including vulnerable groups.
- The **CPME and European Medical Students’ Association (EMSA) joint statement on Healthy Ageing: Prevention of Frailty and Functional Decline** puts forward a series of joint recommendations and implementation tools for prevention of frailty and functional decline in the older population. Medical training, maintaining, restoring and improving functional capacity, health literacy and communication and availability of professional medical consultation are key for an integrated prevention strategy on frailty.
- The **CPME Statement on the Management of Chronic Conditions** puts forward several key recommendations following the EU reflection on chronic diseases. A more uniform assessment and classification of chronic conditions are a first step for choosing the optimal level of integrated assistance the patient needs as well as recommending functional capacity assessment tools, improving communication and cooperation between healthcare professionals, social workers, patients, citizens and other relevant stakeholders.
- CPME co-signed a letter on **Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol** initiated by the British Medical Association in response to national debates on policy options. The letter expresses its support for the introduction of a minimum retail price for a unit of alcohol, in support of the first steps made by the ‘Alcohol (Minimum Price per Unit) (Scotland) Order 2013’, which is currently under review by the European Commission.

All CPME Policy documents are available at: <http://www.cpme.eu/policy.php>

For more information, please contact:

Birgit BEGER

CPME Secretary General

Tel.: +32 2 732 72 02

Fax: +32 2 732 73 44

e-mail: secretariat@cpme.eu

For more information about CPME, consult our website: <http://www.cpme.eu>

1