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On 15 December 2012, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the "CPME Statement on the revision of the Directive on the transparency of the pricing and reimbursement procedures of medicinal products for human use" (CPME 2012/140 FINAL)

CPME Statement on the revision of the Directive on the transparency of the pricing and reimbursement procedures of medicinal products for human use

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) aims to promote the highest standards of medical training and medical practice in order to achieve the highest quality of health care for all patients in Europe. CPME is also concerned with the promotion of public health, the relationship between patients and doctors and the free movement of doctors within the European Union. CPME represents the national medical associations of 27 countries in Europe and works closely with the national medical associations of countries that have applied for EU membership as well as specialized European medical associations.

CPME welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a new Directive on the transparency of the pricing and reimbursement procedures of medicinal products for human use.

CPME acknowledges the need to revise the current applicable legislative framework (Directive 89/105). CPME therefore welcomes the provisions on transparency introduced in the Commission's proposal. The reinforcement of these provisions in the draft report tabled by MEP Antoniya Parvanova, rapporteur for the European Parliament, are equally saluted. Indeed, the pricing and reimbursement procedures for which the Member States are competent, need to be as transparent as possible in order to guarantee a high level of trust. Making this information available to the public is key. Full transparency of the responsible decision-making bodies and experts, as well as the criteria and methods used, should be ensured.

Regarding the time limits foreseen in the current proposal for the pricing and reimbursement procedures, CPME believes that priority should be given to patient safety and the quality and effectiveness of medicines. CPME therefore fears that shortening the time limits might generate difficulties to comply with the safety and quality requirements within the decision-making process.

Finally, CPME is in favour of including civil society organisations such as patients and consumer groups in the Member States decisions to adopt or amend any legislative measure falling under the scope of the new Directive, as proposed by Antoniya Parvanova. However, CPME believes that health care professionals – in particular physicians - should also be consulted during these procedures as medicinal products for human use form an integral part of their daily professional practice.