



On 16 October 2014, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME response to the public consultation for the own-initiative inquiry of the European Ombudsman towards the European Commission concerning transparency and public participation in relation to the TTIP negotiations (OI/10/2014/RA)' (CPME 2014/070 FINAL)

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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.¹

CPME welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the public consultation for the own-initiative inquiry of the European Ombudsman towards the European Commission concerning transparency and public participation in relation to the TTIP negotiations. Please find our observations to the respective questions below.

- 1) Please give us your views on what concrete measures the Commission could take to make the TTIP negotiations more transparent. Where, specifically, do you see room for improvement? (We would ask you to be as concrete as possible in your replies and also to consider the feasibility of your suggestions, in light of the timeframe of the negotiations. It would be most helpful if you could prioritise your suggestions.)*

As stated in the '[CPME response to the public consultation on investment protection and investor-to-state dispute settlement \(ISDS\) in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement \(TTIP\)](#)', CPME has grave concerns as to the lack of transparency of negotiations and the insufficient access to information on their content and structure for decision-makers and the general public.

CPME believes the widest possible public access to documents should be ensured, in accordance with Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, and the judgment of the European Court of Justice in Case C350/12 P.

¹CPME is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 9276943405-41. More information about CPME's activities can be found under www.cpme.eu



CPME therefore urgently calls for greater transparency of on-going negotiations and a public consultation on the final text of the agreement before it is adopted.

- 2) *Please provide examples of best practice that you have encountered in this area (for example, in particular Commission Directorates-General or other international organisations) that you believe could be applied throughout the Commission.*

The far-reaching material and personal scope of the TTIP will have legal effect in the European Union. It is therefore necessary to ensure its negotiations respect the same standards of transparency and democratic accountability as other Union legislation.

- 3) *Please explain how, in your view, greater transparency might affect the outcome of the negotiations.*

By ensuring transparency of negotiations and allowing for meaningful consultation, the effectiveness, acceptance and thus impact of the final TTIP agreement can be improved. At the same time, all stakeholders' concerns can be taken into consideration to safeguard the agreement's implementation is compatible with safeguarding of quality and safety standards as established by the legislative framework at Union and national level.