



On 8 April 2016, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME contribution to WHO Expert Group of the Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth' (CPME 2016/043 FINAL)

**CPME contribution to WHO Expert Group of the Commission on
Health Employment and Economic Growth**

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 institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

CPME welcomes the opportunity to provide a contribution to the reflection process launched by the Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

- CPME has a long-standing interest in the discussion on the interface between economy and health. CPME is convinced that economic stability in both the public and private sector and sustainable high quality healthcare are mutually dependent. CPME would like to reiterate that investment in health and a healthy workforce is crucial to economic recovery and growth.
- In the context of the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy, CPME has repeatedly addressed the implications the economic crisis has on health, e.g. mental health, poorer health outcomes (namely due to stress, poor diet, etc.), as well as highlighting the role the health sector has in economic stabilisation and recovery in terms of employment and innovation.
- At the same time, CPME reaffirms that healthcare services and technology cannot be equated to services that are purely commercial in nature. Nor is the demand and supply of healthcare services and technology subject to or compatible with conventional market forces or competitiveness. Economic strategies must therefore respect the specificities of the healthcare sector and safeguard every patient's access to healthcare including for patient groups with vulnerabilities. For instance, the increasing initiatives at CEN and ISO level to develop industrial standards interfering with healthcare services are therefore unacceptable.
- CPME reaffirms that health workforce policy must ensure safe, healthy and lawful working conditions for doctors and other health workers, and ensure that high quality practice is enabled throughout professional careers. This includes high quality education and training, adequate staffing levels and remuneration, and perspectives for professional development. CPME also underlines that all policy decisions must be based on the principle of improving the quality of and



patients' access to healthcare. Economic considerations may not take precedence over this principle.

- CPME is also committed to ensuring safe and responsible professional mobility. In accordance with their obligations under the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, countries must desist from pro-actively recruiting doctors and other health workers from vulnerable countries but rather work towards self-sufficiency. At the same time, CPME underlines that privately, mobility is a doctor's individual right and greatly benefits the individual and the profession as a whole.
- CPME underlines the key role of professional organisations in health employment policy, including their role in the regulation of the profession. It is imperative to involve them in policy decisions throughout the policy process.