



On 25 May 2016, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME statement on cooperation in the European Union' (CPME 2016/057 FINAL)

CPME statement on cooperation in the European Union

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.

From its very establishment in 1959, the political and organisational evolution of CPME has been intrinsically linked with the European Union. The elaboration of EU competences and institutions as well as successive enlargements to include new Member States, have been reflected in the development of CPME.

CPME knows from its own experience that it sometimes requires immense efforts and compromise to achieve policy action which balances national perspectives and European objectives.

Nonetheless, CPME is unwavering in its belief in and commitment to the benefits of cooperation in the European Union and in wider Europe, both at the institutional and governmental level, as well as between National Medical Associations.

In light of the rising scepticism towards the European Union and European cooperation, CPME wishes to highlight the following:

- CPME is convinced that National Medical Associations fulfil a crucial role not only for the medical profession, but also for patients, the healthcare system, and society as a whole. Cooperation between independent and democratic National Medical Associations at European-level strengthens the representation of the profession, including its right to take action in support of professional regulation, ethics, and medical practice conditions.
- The European Union has created a body of rights for EU citizens which safeguards, i.a., equal treatment and non-discrimination, cross-border mobility, safe working conditions and



fundamental rights. These provide a foundation not only for everyday lives but also for the functioning of healthcare systems.

- The European Union provides a legal framework for the mobility of doctors and patients. Thanks to a scheme on the mutual recognition of doctors' qualifications, the medical profession is one of the most mobile. Similarly, laws on patients' rights to receive healthcare outside their own Member State offer opportunities, particularly for patients with rare diseases or those in need of specialised treatment. At its best, this mobility can benefit not only the individual EU citizen, but also the healthcare system as a whole. The involvement of European doctors is essential to ensure that laws are safe and fit for purpose.

CPME therefore appeals to doctors, citizens and governments alike to consider the benefits of cooperation in the EU and wider Europe and to remain committed to the European project.