



On 10 October 2019, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME consultation response on evaluation of Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) rules applicable to health and social services and the SGEI de minimis Regulation' (CPME 2019/092 FINAL).

**CPME response to European Commission consultation on evaluation of
Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) rules applicable to health and social services
and the SGEI de minimis Regulation**

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 participate in the consultation on the evaluation of the Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) rules applicable to health.

CPME would like to underline that healthcare services cannot be equated to services which are purely commercial in nature. Nor is the demand and supply of healthcare services subject to conventional market forces. EU law, such as the SGEI framework or the Services Directive 2016/113/EC, rightly acknowledge this specificity by providing a tailored legislative framework.

To ensure that the objective of attaining the best possible quality of and access to care for every patient can continue to drive health policy, it is necessary to maintain the current regulatory framework on state aid. Under no circumstances may high quality care and patient safety be put at risk by policy decisions. They must always take precedence over economic concerns.

CPME therefore supports to maintain the current rules applicable to health SGEIs.