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## The European Health Data Space – what to expect?

On 20 March, CPME adopted a **policy on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)** with a focus on health research and policy making.

*“We welcome the EHDS as we believe it can contribute to the improvement of disease prevention, patient-oriented healthcare and better treatment options. The EHDS must be used for the ‘public good’, therefore we urge European policymakers to set a clear and transparent legal framework, providing criteria about legitimate purposes and legitimate users and contributors. A Code of Conduct should complement the legal framework, applied to both public and private entities using or contributing to the Space.”* says CPME President Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery.

European doctors stress that such legal framework should include clear rules for processing patient data, particularly if made available to businesses and governments, the cost of access, for how long and for what specific purpose. Transparency policies should then be further developed in a Code of Conduct (CoC) to which users and contributors have to abide by. CPME calls for clear guidance on data access, the re-use of health data, information rights to patients, feedback of findings, transfer to third parties, mixed patient data sets, data altruism, data quality, secure interoperability and data infrastructures.

European doctors add that the EHDS should be governed by an independent authority, where an expert from each Member State is represented. The European Data Protection Supervisor, ensuring consistent coordination with the European Data Protection Board, should supervise such independent authority. CPME advises that the EHDS should start from specific and identified use cases where data sharing is urgently needed, e.g. cancer, COVID-19 and antibiotic treatments.

European doctors request to respect medical confidentiality, as stated by the **Declarations of Helsinki** and **Taipei**. CPME expects **TEHDAS** to provide answers to many of these issues. CPME has been selected to be part of some advisory groups to contribute with the European doctors perspective.

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