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On 19 May 2021, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME Statement on the Digital Green Certificate' (CPME 2021/043 FINAL).

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### CPME Statement on the Digital Green Certificate

*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.<sup>1</sup>*

CPME acknowledges that there is widespread support for the European Commission proposal<sup>2</sup> to create a Digital Green Certificate to prove that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result, or recovered from COVID-19. While the certificate will facilitate safe free movement inside the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, European doctors also believe that this certificate will encourage citizens to take their responsibility of getting vaccinated. Immunisation is an individual right and shared responsibility to improve public health.

The implementation of negative test results must be seen with great caution. Test results are only valid for a very short time whereas vaccination or disease-recovery assure a much longer period of immunity. Furthermore, the Member States must ensure that the increased demand of tests from citizens wanting a Digital Green Certificate does not overstretch the capacities of healthcare systems already under stress.

The EU must ensure that there is no discrimination against persons who have not yet been able to get vaccinated or those who cannot be vaccinated. Moreover, the certificate should only include a minimum of information that is strictly necessary. CPME highlights the need for strong data protection safeguards on patient data and refers to the European Data Protection Supervisor and European Data Protection Board joint position in this regard.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the risks of falsification should be considered when developing the certificate. Several cases of false COVID-19 test certificates being sold to travellers have already emerged.<sup>4</sup> However, the issuing procedure should be straightforward without increasing administrative tasks of healthcare professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> CPME is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 9276943405-41.

<sup>2</sup> [Proposal for a Regulation on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable certificates on vaccination, testing and recovery to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic \(Digital Green Certificate\)](#). European Commission, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> [EDPB-EDPS Joint Opinion on the Digital Green Certificate](#). EDPB-EDPS, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> [Europol warning on the illicit sale of false negative COVID-19 test certificates](#). Europol, 2021.



The final decision on the Digital Green Certificate should be made based on the latest scientific evidence and taking privacy and human rights issues into account. The current evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. However, further studies are needed, also regarding the new mutant strains.

CPME agrees that the certificate will be used temporarily until the COVID-19 pandemic is over but encourages the European Commission to continue their work to develop a common European electronic vaccination card combined with a mobile application to be used with routine immunisation programmes and after proven recovery.<sup>5</sup> Finally, CPME reminds that the WHO International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) has been effectively in use and required for entry to certain countries with increased health risks already long before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>5</sup> [CPME Policy on Vaccination](#). The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), 2021.