



OUTCOMES OF THE CPME GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD MEETINGS, 21 November 2020 (virtual meeting)

European doctors from 30 National Medical Associations met online for the biannual General Assembly and Board meetings of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME). During the meetings held on 21 November 2020, the CPME delegates had fruitful exchanges on recent health policy developments at national and European levels.

Moreover, the General Assembly warmly welcomed the Medical Chamber of the Republic of North Macedonia as a CPME observer member. It adopted, among other items:

CPME Policy on Digital Competencies for Doctors (available [here](#))

Digital health technologies are changing the way in which health and care are delivered, reshaping medical practice and the patient-doctor relationship. The Digital health literacy (DHL) of healthcare professionals is a crucial component of the efficient and effective transformation of health care. Doctors should possess strong digital skills framed and adapted to their medical specialty. At present, neither practising doctors nor those in education to become doctors are adequately prepared. CPME calls on Member States to take on financial responsibility for the digital health transformation; to promote investment in eHealth solutions that improve patient safety, quality of care and efficiency; and, to invest in programmes to boost the digital health literacy skills of patients.

CPME Policy on Physical Activity (available [here](#))

More than half of all Europeans are not active enough to meet the recommended levels for regular physical activity. CPME therefore calls on policymakers to continue investing in active mobility solutions to promote physical activity. Infrastructure should be developed to encourage engagement in physical activities, taking all population groups into account. Also schools should be supported in their efforts to offer high quality and safe physical education. Moreover, CPME calls on all European doctors to engage in physical activity in line with current recommendations for their own well-being and as an example to their patients. Doctors should be encouraged to prescribe physical activity as a treatment for patients where appropriate.



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CPME Statement on Criminalisation of Acts of Solidarity (available [here](#))

In recent years criminal law has been used against providers of humanitarian assistance in an increasing number of cases. This has concerned, in particular, the rescue of and help provided to refugees and other migrants but has also occurred in other instances such as when medical assistance has been provided to anti-government protesters. European doctors underline the ethical principles underpinning doctors' practice and their duty to treat each patient in accordance with medical need, regardless of legal status, religious and political views or any other grounds. European doctors also join the call to clarify the EU Facilitation Directive (Council Directive 2002/90/EC) to make it mandatory for Member States to exempt humanitarian assistance from the scope of sanctionable action. The statement also calls for the Directive to clarify what constitutes humanitarian assistance and acknowledge complementary rights, e.g. to medical confidentiality.

European Doctors' Recommendations to the EU on Pandemic Preparedness (available [here](#))

Learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic is key for the international community to prepare for future pandemics. The European Doctors' recommendations build on the reports by national medical associations on Covid-19 from March to July 2020. The summary report is available [here](#). Among the highlights of the recommendations are: Health systems need to adopt a 'just in case' model. The just in case model should provide a baseline capacity which is sufficient to ensure Universal Health Coverage and surge capacities which can be deployed to deal with extraordinary situations. In terms of health professionals, European doctors recommend reviewing legislation and policies on their working conditions to provide safe and lawful employment, including in emergency situations (e.g. ensuring access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)). They also recommend expanding the possibility of joint procurement of medicines and other supplies (medical devices, PPE) to facilitate cooperation between Member States in a spirit of solidarity, ensuring equal access for all EU citizens. Encouraging and facilitating cross-border treatment of patients and assisting health authorities in coordinating cross-border treatment, reimbursement and cross-border public health infection tracing is also very important. Two key recommendations relating to medical supplies are to strengthen the resilience of medicines' and medical devices' supply chains and to prioritise access to medicines. In terms of data, doctors highlight the importance of improving data collection and sharing related to infectious diseases as well as strengthening the respective roles of the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

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