



**CPME/AD/EC/111104/145/EN**

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CPME Executive Committee, Brussels, 11 November 2004: CPME adopted the following policy "CPME statement on priority medicines for Europe and the world" (CPME 2004/145 EN/Fr)

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## **PRIORITY MEDICINES FOR EUROPE AND THE WORLD**

### **CPME<sup>1</sup> Statement:**

- WHO has released a draft report on "Priority Medicines for Europe and the World" to be discussed at a high level conference in The Hague on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004 as part of the Dutch EU Presidency activities.
- The basic aim of the report is to highlight the need for R & D in priority medicines in order to bridge the gap between the need for pharmaceutical treatment of certain medical conditions and patient groups and the existing and available pharmaceutical therapies.
- CPME acknowledges and fully agrees with the report's basic fact that there is a priority need in pharmaco-therapy for certain conditions and patient groups and that there are differences here between Europe and other parts of the world.
- CPME fully supports the WHO's comprehensive draft report in seeing priority medicine as an important issue.
- CPME also supports the report's preliminary conclusions that there is a need for more R & D on drugs for many diseases and patient groups such as elderly, children, pregnant and breast-feeding women.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) is the representative body of about 2 million physicians in Europe.*

*Its aims are:*

- *to promote the highest standards of medical training and medical practice, through advocating:*
  - *public health,*
  - *the relationship between patients and doctors*
  - *the free movement of doctors and patients within the European Union*
- *to achieve the highest quality of health care in Europe.*

*It is composed of the most representative non-governmental national medical organisations in EU/EEA countries, that is to say 26 National Medical Associations. It also unites associated members, observers and associated organisations (specialised European medical organisations).*

- CPME recognises that the priority needs can be different but also similar and common comparing Europe and other parts of the world and consequently that further R & D must be made with both needs taken into consideration, the so-called “duality of interests”.
- CPME wants to underline the priority needs for neglected as well as orphan diseases.
- CPME also wants to underline the importance of involving – e.g. through conferences like this one - all relevant stakeholders such as patients, the public, the medical profession, governments and industry in finalising the priorities and an action plan for the future. CPME is prepared to offer its expertise in this work on part of the medical profession.
- CPME means further that it is important to make the priority needs known to all in order to obtain concrete results and changes.
- CPME would finally like to voice its support for the Dutch Presidency to take this issue further based on the report. This would be of great importance for the member states of the EU as well as for the global community at large.