European perspectives on challenges to health and healthcare

Sarada Das, CPME Secretary General

25 November 2023, Sofia



We represent national medical associations across Europe, covering roughly:

1.7 million European Doctors from 37 countries

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.



We promote the highest level of medical training and practice but also the provision of evidence-based, ethical and equitable healthcare services.



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Verbindung der Schweizer Änzte (Swiss Medical Association)



The Netherlands

Roninklijke Nederlandsche Mastschappij tot Bevordering der Geneeskunst (KVMS) (Royal Dutch Medical Association)



United Kingdom

Sitish Medical Association



Albania-

Urdhri i Mjekeve Te Shqiperise (Order of Physicians of Albania)



Georgia

Georgian Medical Association



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Kosovo*

Octa e Mjekëve të Kosovës* (Kosovo* Doctors Chember)



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CDNE Secretariat



What topics does CPME work on?

Digital Health

Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare Products

Public Health & Disease Prevention

Professional Practice & Health Systems

Principles, Patients & Ethics

What can Europe do to tackle challenges health and healthcare?

- COVID-19 pandemic exposed long-standing problems in health systems
- BUT, pandemic also showed value of European cooperation
- HOWEVER, the European Health Union is not yet achieved
- To tackle the challenges, we need
 - High-level political attention for health
 - Continued investment in health
 - Coherent policy-making
 - European solidarity



EUROPEAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Health Check for Europe 2024-2029

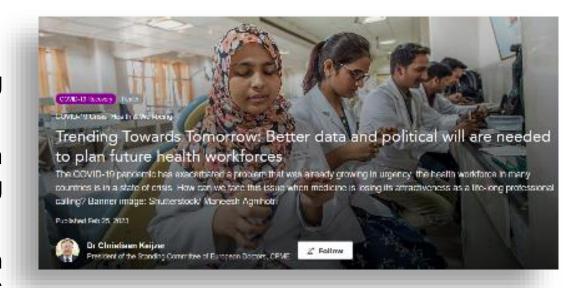
European doctors' ambitions to continue building the European Health Union:

- 1. Tackle the health workforce crisis
- 2. Ensure a safe digital transformation of healthcare
- 3. Enable healthier living
- 4. Guarantee accessibility and effectiveness of medicines
- 5. Take climate action for better health



Tackle the health workforce crisis

- Act on retention and recruitment
- Enforce national and EU laws on working conditions
- European Commission guidance on minimum capacity benchmarks to achieve safe staffing levels
- Defend minimum training requirements in Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC and high-quality training throughout careers
- Prevent brain drain by creating self-sufficiency and implementing WHO's ethical recruitment policies

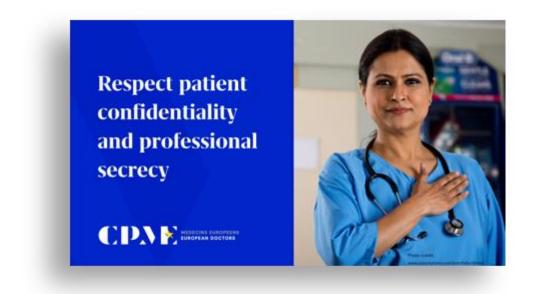


 \rightarrow Ensure that medical profession does not lose its attractiveness as a lifelong career



Ensure a safe digital transformation of healthcare

- Great potential, but fallacy to think it solves all problems
- Need to respect medical confidentiality and professional secrecy
- Lobby on-going EU negotiations on European Health Data Space to work towards trustworthy IT infrastructures
- Doctors need financial support incl. training for digital literacy



→ Ensure that digital transformation supports doctors and does not take time away from patient care



Enable healthier living

- Implement 'Health in all policies' approach, with cross-sectoral action on health, taxation, agriculture, education etc.
- EU action must follow evidence, incl. WHO 'best buys' to regulate marketing restrictions, taxation and labelling of alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products
- Improve health literacy and tackle disinformation,
 e.g. to increase vaccination coverage
- Tackle poverty and inequalities in health and access to healthy living, e.g. mobility in green spaces, healthy food



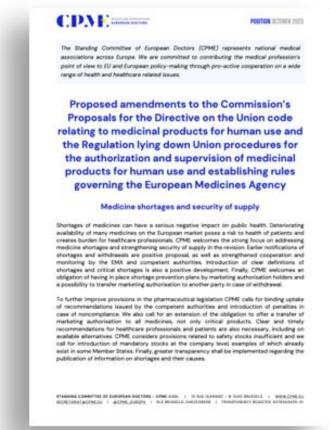
→ Ensure coherent evidence-based policies across sectors to enable physical and mental health and wellbeing



Guarantee accessibility and effectiveness of

medicines

- Prevent medicine shortages by creating resilient supply chains, safety stocks and effective monitoring and alert systems
- Lobby EU negotiations on new pharmaceutical legislation rebalance sector to serve medical and societal needs
- Improve access for patients everywhere
- Reduce antimicrobial resistance by preventing unnecessary consumption of antibiotics



→ Ensure access to affordable and safe medicines for all patients in Europe



Take climate action for better health

- Hold EU to its target of climate neutrality by 2050 and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030
- Lobby on EU negotiations on ambient air quality legislation to achieve alignment with WHO guidelines
- Find solutions to improve the environmental footprint of the healthcare sector, without compromising patient safety and care
- Raise awareness for health impacts of climate change, in line with One Health approach



→ Ensure effective action to reduce health effects of climate change



Keep in touch with CPME

- Most recent policies:
 - Policy on Doctors' well-being
 - Policy on Adverse Health Effects of Cannabis
 - Statement on Policy on Doctors' Right to Strike and Physician Substitution
- CPME magazine
- CPME social media @CPME_Europa



Webinar on Quality of Basic Medical Education

13 December 2023, 10:30-12:30 (Brussels time)

- Focus on how to maintain and evolve high quality education and training for doctors in Europe
- Official invitation and agenda to follow shortly









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