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On 11 September 2014, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME response to the public consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy' (CPME 2014/077 FINAL)

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### **CPME response to the public consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy**

*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 welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy.

As set out in the response CPME submitted to the 2010 consultation on the strategy<sup>2</sup>, as well as the joint response of EU Health Policy Forum, CPME underlines the important role of health and healthcare for the strategy's objective of smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

CPME would like to reiterate that investment in health and a healthy workforce is crucial to economic recovery and growth.

The Europe 2020 strategy is key to respond to the expectations and needs of European people and citizens. European doctors consider that the strategy should give more emphasis to the needs of the health workforce, to ensure adequate budgetary allocation for health services, reduce health inequalities and promote health and well-being of citizens through a 'health in all policies' approach.

CPME reaffirms that

- The fundamental right to access to preventive healthcare and medical treatment for every patient in Europe must be safeguarded in all policies, in particular strategies adopted to recover from the economic and financial crisis. Similarly, fundamental principles of medical ethics, such as the confidentiality of the patient-doctor relationship and the effective protection of patient data, must be ensured.

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<sup>1</sup> CPME is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 9276943405-41. More information about CPME's activities can be found under [www.cpme.eu](http://www.cpme.eu)

<sup>2</sup> Please find the CPME response to the 2010 consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy [here](#).



CPME/AD/EC/11092014/077\_Final/EN

- The division of competences between the European Union and the Member States as established in Article 168 TFEU should be respected in order to deliver the highest standard of health care in each health care system while co-operating and exchanging about best practices within Europe. This relates also to the organisation of the health workforce and services, including the regulation of professional practice and education and training. In the interest of patient safety, Member States' regulatory frameworks may not be subjected to initiatives which are tailored to sectors which are purely commercial in nature, e.g. deregulation and technical standardisation.
- Investment in health must be driven by the objective of improving patient outcomes and quality of care. This necessitates ensuring lawful working conditions for the health workforce, and promoting innovation in healthcare technologies which have proven their benefits to quality of care.
- Avoidable health inequalities are morally wrong and costly to the individual and society, but also the economy, e.g. in terms of reduced productivity or early retirement due to ill health. The social determinants which exacerbate inequalities in mental and physical health often lie outside the scope of health policy. It is therefore essential that all policies relating to the strategy assess their potential impact on health inequalities with a view to reducing the gap.
- Research and innovation are essential to the development of new drugs and therapies. Investment in medical research should be supported at EU level, always under the caveat that medical ethics are respected.

CPME would welcome for these points to be taken up in the continuation of the strategy's implementation to ensure a healthy economy for Europe.