Manifesto for the 2014 European Elections

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents the National Medical Associations of 32 countries in Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active coopration on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

We believe the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare should be a reality for everyone.

"Health in all policies"

We strongly advocate a "health in all policies" approach to encourage cross-sectoral awareness for and action on the determinants of health, to prevent disease and promote good health across society.

Economic restraints for healthcare budgets

Budget cuts affect healthcare services in terms of, for example, access to care, health technologies, innovation and staffing levels, thus causing structural inequalities in access to care. Although recognising the need to respect budgetary restraints, the potential for budgetary cuts in healthcare is limited and the impact has to be carefully assessed. CPME also believes there are opportunities for smarter spending, e.g. on the prevention of disease to avoid the greater personal and economic burdens of treating ill health.

A strong medical workforce is key for high quality patient care

CPME promotes the highest level of medical education, training and practice, the safe mobility of physicians and patients, lawful and supportive working conditions for physicians and the provision of evidence-based, ethical and equitable healthcare services in order to achieve the highest quality of healthcare for all patients in Europe.

Professional autonomy

CPME asks for a clear recognition of professional autonomy, i.e. the independence of physicians to provide healthcare in the best interest of patients, which is a patient right. Whether at organisational or patient-physician level, it is a vital tool to achieve high quality healthcare.

Patient Safety and Quality of Care

CPME promotes a culture of patient safety across healthcare systems. At EU level, CPME encourages a system analysis approach when studying adverse events in an effort to understand how human factors, medical devices, organisations, pharmaceutical products, etc., all interact to create safe conditions in the health sector. CPME also supports the highest standards of medical practice in order to achieve the highest quality of healthcare for all patients in Europe.

Ethics and medical research

Medical research is essential to the development of new treatments and new medicines. CPME calls on EU decision-makers to support medical research to strengthen the European knowledge base, while respecting ethical standards and the highest level of protection for patients participating in research.

Equal access to health

Inequalities in access to healthcare and healthy choices can be found across Europe, not only between Member States, but also within individual Member States. CPME believes these inequalities to be not only socially unjust, but also morally wrong. They violate patients' fundamental right to health. CPME calls for these specific legal and social determinants of health to be addressed.

European doctors call on EU decision-makers:

→ To support the professional autonomy of doctors to ensure high quality healthcare

→ To safeguard an effective framework for patient safety and quality of care

→ To take cross-sectorial action to close the gap in health inequalities

CPME is available to provide expertise and support regarding all of the above objectives whenever needed.