



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



CPME/AD/Pre/050203/10/EN

At the request of the CPME Presidency (emergency issue), Brussels, 5th February 2003, the CPME adopted the following policy : **CPME welcomes the Final Report of the Working Group on Social Europe and the recognition of the fundamental importance of public health to Europe's citizens** (CPME 2003/012 EN)



Dear Member of the Convention,

Wednesday 5 February 2003

CPME welcomes the Final Report of the Working Group on Social Europe and the recognition of the fundamental importance of public health to Europe's citizens. The inclusion of 'a high level of public health' into Article 3 of the Constitutional Treaty underlines the objective of the Union to contribute to the well-being and welfare of Europeans.

The credibility of the European Union's positions on international health issues rests upon a clear focus and priority on public health in the constitutional treaty.

The Union has an important role to play in helping to address health challenges domestically and internationally. A reinforced European activity on public health should fully respect the responsibility and capacity of EU Member States to organise and manage their healthcare systems.

Specifically, and as mentioned in our previous letter dated 20/12/02 to you, we urge members of the Convention to endorse the following recommendations of the Working Group on Social Europe

- Inclusion of a 'high level of public health' in Article 3 on the EU objectives
- Strengthening and enlarging the EU competence in public health (Article 152) in order to meet this objective
- A recognition of the value of universal access to services such as health and education.

CPME is a membership driven association. The members are National medical associations (NMAs) of the EU member states and the EFTA countries. CPME has as observers and associate members NMAs from other European countries, many of them applicant countries to EU. CPME represents 1,6 million doctors within the EU/EEC.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Brettenthaler
President

Lisette Tiddens-Engwirda
Secretary General