

Health Check European Elections

2019



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



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 institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues. We call on the European institutions to treat Universal Health Coverage as a basic human right. We believe the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare should be a reality for everyone.

Future of health

We ask that health always be put high on the EU agenda, thus safeguarding Universal Health Coverage for every patient. Even in times of budgetary restraints, there can be no economic growth without investments in health. Health is an essential element of the European social model and contributes to social cohesion, inclusive growth and nurtures a sound economic environment as a prerequisite for investment.

Skilled doctors, safe conditions

We ask that safe and attractive working conditions for doctors be ensured throughout Europe, even more so with Brexit changing the paradigm of medical migration and education and training. Coordinated measures and policies to reduce violence against healthcare professionals should be initiated. Doctors must be able to rely on safe, lawful and ethical working conditions, recognition of their services and qualifications, and opportunities to continuously improve their skills. Enabling such an environment strengthens the patient-doctor relationship, the professional identity and autonomy of doctors. This is key to keeping the profession attractive throughout careers and directly benefiting patient safety and quality of care.

Enable healthy living

We ask for prevention to be one of the primary targets of all health policies. We need everyone to be committed to this vital goal and tackle behavioural risk factors such as tobacco, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and harmful use of alcohol. For example, clear labelling of alcohol products and the limitation of industrial trans fats intakes help better protect the health of European citizens and prevent diseases. Health promotion and disease prevention are an important task of national governments and an essential part of physician-led primary care.



1



2



3

Invest in health security

We ask for constant efforts to contain the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to increase vaccination coverage. Resistance to antibiotics is progressing at a rapid pace and old, vaccine-preventable diseases are reappearing. Policies must strengthen doctors and other health professionals in playing an active role in the fight against AMR and vaccine hesitancy.



Foster trust in sharing of health data

We ask for ethically sound governance on how to share health data. Medical research is essential for the development of new treatments and medicines. However, research opportunities using 'big data' should not result in the weakening of applicable ethical standards. Patient autonomy and the right to self-determination must always be guaranteed.



Guarantee access to medicines

We ask that the availability and affordability of medicines be tackled. Due to soaring drug prices and to sometimes declining production, European citizens increasingly experience a lack of access to certain medicinal therapies. Some citizens even have to wait for their health status to deteriorate before getting access. This goes against the medical profession's obligation to serve the patient's best interest and raises serious ethical questions as to nonmaleficence and equity.



European doctors call on EU decision-makers to:

- ✓ Put health high on the EU agenda
- ✓ Support skilled doctors and safe conditions
- ✓ Enable healthy living
- ✓ Invest in health security
- ✓ Foster trust in the sharing of health data
- ✓ Guarantee access to medicines



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS

