
On 22 October 2021, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the "CPME statement on the European Commission proposal for establishing HERA" (CPME 2021/114 FINAL).

CPME statement on the European Commission proposal for establishing the Health European Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA)

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.

With its proposal to create the Health European Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), the European Commission has rightly recognised the need for a new mechanism responsible for innovation related to health emergencies. European doctors expressed their views on the initial Commission plans in a [response to public consultation](#) and its [position on the pharmaceutical strategy](#). After publication of the Commission's [final proposal](#), CPME would like to comment as follows:

Due legislative procedure

Undeniably, getting the authority up and running quickly has added value. However, there is currently no reason justifying the establishment of HERA based on Article 122 TFEU.

The creation of a new, permanent EU structure of such importance operating with a substantial public budget, should not be based on exceptional clauses reserved for acute crises. The Commission should therefore ensure the involvement of the European Parliament in establishing HERA's crisis framework.

Public health objectives

HERA must not become an industrial policy instrument hidden away in the Commission structure. This risk is real, as the Commission proposal fails to guarantee public scrutiny. It must be clear from the onset that the authority's primary objective is about improving public health and health security and is not about economic considerations.

Transparent governance

While the Commission formalises ad hoc measures introduced during the pandemic, it falls short of bringing greater transparency in its decision-making process. Transparent governance of public funding and of cooperation with private partners is essential to build trust and confidence in managing health emergencies.

Affordability and equitable distribution

The proposal also lacks sufficient provisions on affordability and equitable distribution of medical countermeasures. HERA should be explicitly mandated to determine from the outset the fair sharing of risks and rewards of future innovations between the public and private sectors. Such mandate must ensure that end products are accessible to all EU citizens and that technologies and know-how can be shared globally.

HERA's scope

Provided HERA focuses on improving health security and is subject to checks and balances, Member States can significantly increase the resilience of their health systems and their capacity to respond to health crises. National governments should therefore seek to strengthen the proposed structure and expand HERA's scope.