

**CPME Written statements to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
Sixty-ninth session, Copenhagen, 16-19 September 2019**

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.

CPME welcomes the opportunity to submit a written statement to the sixty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

Accelerating primary health care in the WHO European Region: organizational and technological innovation in the context of the Declaration of Astana

CPME strongly supports the efforts to accelerate the progress made on providing high quality primary care to every patient. European doctors continue to promote better resourcing as well as continuous education and training to support primary care in its preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative dimensions. CPME also calls for the systematic assessment to encourage evidence-based policy-making.

CPME wishes to reaffirm that

- High quality healthcare must be accessible to every patient at the time of need and without financial considerations being a barrier to receiving appropriate treatment. This must extend to vulnerable groups such as migrants, including undocumented migrants. Limiting their access to primary care is ethically wrong and economically short-sighted.
- Care is delivered in increasingly complex teams in which each professional plays a unique role. CPME welcomes opportunities for collaborative practice and supports the improvement of interprofessional communication. To ensure optimal care, CPME believes that such an integrated network of care should be under the leadership of a medical doctor.
- The 'digital pointers' identified to support primary care are a reflection of the ever increasing digitisation of health and healthcare. CPME is long-since involved in promoting trust in and acceptance of digital health tools while ensuring that they respect medical confidentiality. Complementing primary care with digital tools can indeed benefit patient care and should be encouraged wherever this is the case. However, digitisation should not be seen as a would-be solution to permanently ignoring resource shortages in services.

CPME looks forward to continuing its cooperation with WHO-Europe towards better primary care for every patient.