



**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.

Health literacy in the WHO European Region

CPME warmly welcomes the opportunity to comment on WHO-Europe's continued commitment to improving health literacy.

Health literacy is the ability to access, understand, appraise and apply health information. Almost half of all Europeans have inadequate health literacy skills and troubles to understand doctor's advice or medication package leaflets. Low health literacy is also a cause for many unnecessary hospital visits. Promoting health literacy and health literate societies requires a multi-stakeholder approach connecting healthcare professionals, general public, researchers and policymakers. Health literacy skills help people to prevent and manage diseases, and make healthcare more effective and efficient.

CPME believes that people's health literacy skills should be supported by a coherent European health literacy strategy. To ensure optimal outcomes, CPME recommends streamlining WHO-Europe, EU and Member State agendas on this topic.