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.

Matters arising from resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board: Summary of the draft global strategy on digital health

CPME welcomes the WHO's efforts to contribute to the digital health agenda.

CPME recognises how digital transformation is changing medical practice. We work to create trust and acceptability in new technologies for patients and doctors. We argue that the overall benefit of digital tools in healthcare depends on its appropriate design, validation, and implementation which cannot be ensured without the integration of practicing physicians' perspectives.

We draw attention on particular to the challenges which augmented intelligence (AI) poses for healthcare in future. AI constitutes a unique instrument which in many fields is already a reality embedded in physicians' practice.

In the context of EU discussions on AI, CPME has highlighted the specificities of its application to healthcare, foremost the importance of respecting medical ethics, and reaffirmed the importance of ensuring data security and safeguarding medical confidentiality in AI. To this end, all relevant stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, should be involved in future policy dialogues affecting the healthcare sector. CPME calls for a coordinated approach between the EU, WHO, Council of Europe and national strategies on digital health to ensure coherent and evidence-based policies, as well as technical interoperability.

CPME will continue to reinforce its activities on this topic and contribute to future discussions on digital literacy and skills, transparency, health data governance and legal challenges, among others.