



**CPME Written statement to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
Sixty-eight session, Rome, 17-20 September 2018**

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-eight session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

Report on the WHO high-level meeting, Health Systems for Prosperity and Solidarity: Leaving No One Behind

CPME underlines the role of primary care in providing Universal Health Coverage – leaving no one behind. Primary care, in its preventive, curative, and rehabilitative dimensions, is key to ensuring true access to healthcare for every patient.

CPME wishes to highlight that

- High quality healthcare must be accessible for every patient at the time of need and without financial considerations being a barrier to receiving appropriate treatment.
- Healthcare is an investment and we demand political action to provide the necessary resources and to make the contributions possible. Quality Primary Health Care is a good starting point to make a meaningful investment, in people, in health and in the economy.
- Primary care is a team effort. It requires different levels of competency, with clear responsibilities. CPME reaffirms that such an integrated network of care should be under the leadership of a medical doctor. Member States' policies should support such structures to ensure safe and efficient care.

In line with the conclusions of the Tallinn meeting, CPME is committed to increasing its cooperation with WHO-Europe in achieving and maintaining “strong primary care oriented people-centred health systems.”