

**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.

Lessons learned from Health 2020 implementation: Promoting health equity in the WHO European Region

European doctors remain committed to tackling avoidable health inequalities. CPME continuously highlights the impact of health equity in all relevant policies at EU and national level, including in the context of climate change, migration, and economic policies.

- Climate change: CPME seeks out opportunities to highlight the impact of policy decisions on health and inequalities impact on different population groups. For example, we comment on EU-level policies on climate change and pollution.
- Employment: CPME has often highlighted the impact of employment conditions on health, both as a stressor and as a potential protective factor. This includes mental health. Precarious employment, which may arise especially from the new forms of work, such as zero-hour contracts, are definite risk factors for health and must be treated accordingly.
- Economics/Finance: CPME has commented on general economic and fiscal policies, for example in the context of the austerity programmes developed for Cyprus and Greece. CPME highlighted that the austerity programmes “exacerbated health inequalities and created new vulnerable groups of patients,” and called for awareness of the health effects of policy decisions on education, housing, pensions, transport, energy, personal finance and environment.

There is still urgent need for improvement. CPME welcomes WHO-Europe’s efforts to accelerate the progress for equity in health and will continue to support all efforts towards this objective.