



UEMO

UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS/MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE

EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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HIGHLIGHTS

Report: consultation on the possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive

On 27 July 2011 the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers published the results of the public consultation on the possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC). The consultation, launched last autumn, generated 85 000 responses. Most of the contributions came from individual citizens. Other respondents represented industry, non-governmental organisations, governments and public authorities.

The conclusions drawn provide useful input to the upcoming process of reviewing the Tobacco Products Directive. Many participants provided very detailed responses, some of which included new sources of information. The results will be taken into account in the ongoing impact assessment that addresses the economic, social and health impacts as well as the legal feasibility of different policy options. And the outcome of this analysis will be presented together with a legislative proposal due next year.

The report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/docs/consultation_report_en.pdf

Report on the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive

During the last meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), held on 11-12 July 2011, members debated the working document on the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC). The *rapporteur* Emma McClarkin (European Conservatives and Reformists, United Kingdom) also identified the priorities for the modernisation. Members made some additional remarks with regard to the professional card, the Bologna process, continuous professional development and the principle of partial access, as identified by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Later, on 30 August, Emma McClarkin presented her draft report on the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The deadline for amendments is 22 September and the vote in IMCO is likely to be on 17 October.

The draft report can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE->

EU NEWS

Health projects funded under the FP7

European researchers believe that we can, and should, use nutrition as a basis to personalise healthcare. FOOD4ME (“Personalised nutrition: an integrated analysis of opportunities and challenges”), a project launched this year and funded under the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), has set its sights on probing the potential of tailor-made diets. FOOD4ME is scheduled to end in 2015.

More information at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=10&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=013193c94c84:1899:23340494&RCN=33645

Another new project funded under the FP7, known as ITFOM (“Information technology future of medicine”), is targeting the development of a massive network of computer programs that could revolutionise health care in Europe and beyond. The ITFOM partners will create “virtual patients” that will help specialists to create personalised health systems based on patients' genetic and physiological make-up. This will give both health care professionals and patients significant support.

Further details are available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=6&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=013193c94c84:1899:23340494&RCN=33662

The European Union has made available to researchers EUR 4.2 million of funds that will strengthen the efforts aimed at increasing the number of years that Europeans live in good health. ERA-AGE 2 (“European Research Area on Ageing 2”) is Europe's first joint call for ageing research. Researchers can submit their bids for funding until 3 October 2011. This initiative is funded under the ERA-NET scheme, helping Europeans to deal with the issue of ageing by consolidating research resources and know-how, and by optimising the impact of research on policy, practice and product development.

More information at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=4&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=013193c6f5f0:0158:22b06027&RCN=33673

Key messages from World Hepatitis Day 2011

On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, celebrated on 28 July 2011, the Correlation Network –European Network Social Inclusion and Health, co-financed under the EU Health Programme– launched 12 key messages for a good Hepatitis C policy and practice among people who use drugs. These messages were prepared by practitioners in the field of Hepatitis treatment and care and contain guiding principles, practice examples and references for further reading.

The messages can be found at: <http://www.correlation-net.org/hepatitis/>

State of the Art of Rare Diseases Activities in Europe

On 1 August the European Commission released the “2011 Report on the State of the Art of Rare Diseases Activities in Europe”. This document was produced by the Scientific Secretariat of the European Union Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases (EUCERD), formerly the Scientific Secretariat of the European Commission’s Rare Diseases Task Force (RDTF). It aims to provide an informative and descriptive overview at both EU and national level in the field of rare diseases and orphan drugs up to the end of 2010.

The report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/rare_diseases/publications/index_en.htm

IIRSM and EU-OSHA strengthen their collaboration

On 2 August 2011 the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) appointed Dr Dietmar Elsler –Project Manager at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) – to its Board of Directors. With this appointment IIRSM intends to further strengthen its role in the international arena of health and safety and builds on the broad range of activities taking place in Europe, Asia and Africa.

IIRSM is a partner of the EU-OSHA “Healthy Workplaces” Campaign 2010/11 on maintenance and plans to support the Campaign 2012/13 “Working together for risk prevention”.

The press release can be found at:

http://www.iirsm.org/Resources/IIRSM/Documents/Press%20Release_0002_Dietmar%20Elsler.pdf

ECDC publishes two reports on migrant health

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) released on 15 August 2011 two new reports further developing its evidence on migrant health. “Improving HIV data comparability in migrant populations and ethnic minorities in EU/EEA/EFTA countries: findings from a literature review and expert panel” provides an overview of the current situation with respect to data on HIV in migrant and ethnic minority populations, identifies gaps and methodological challenges, and proposes ways in which data and data comparability might be improved in Europe. The other report, “Migrant Health: HIV testing and counselling in migrant populations and ethnic minorities in EU/EEA/EFTA Member States”, takes a closer look at HIV testing and counselling policy/practice in the Member States by surveying literature, reviewing national policies and interviewing experts.

The reports are available at:

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/1108_TER_Improving_HIV_data_comparability_in_migrants.pdf

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/1108_TER_HIV_in_migrants.pdf

The State of Men's Health in Europe

On 25 August the European Commission published a report which provides a comprehensive overview of the state of men's health across the 27 Member States of the European Union, the 4 states of the European Free Trade Association (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein) and the 3 candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Patterns emerging from data show marked differences in health outcomes amongst men both between and within countries.

The report can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/population_groups/docs/men_health_report_en.pdf

EVENTS

EUROREGIO III final conference - Health investments in Structural Funds

Under the motto "Learning lessons from health investments in Structural Funds to inform regions in the 2007-2013 period and beyond", the EUROREGIO III final conference will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 22 September 2011. The aim is to review the key findings of the project and their implications in the context of emerging EU policy and planning for the next period. The conference will also present different ways in which the experience of and learning from EUREGIO III will be sustained. There is no registration fee at the event.

Online registration and more details on the conference can be found at:

<http://www.euregio3.eu/events/show/euregio-iii-final-conference-brussels/>

Creating electronic drug information for prescribing in the EU

A conference under the theme "Creating electronic drug information for prescribing in the European Union" will be held on 5 October 2011 at the European Medicines Agency in London (UK). This event is part of the electronic summary of product characteristics (e-SPC) project which aims to enhance patient safety, drug efficacy and improve pharmacotherapy by making the prescribing process more customised to individual patient's needs. The deadline for registration is 23 September.

Further details are available at:

http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/news_and_events/events/2011/07/event_detail_000444.jsp&url=menus/news_and_events/news_and_events.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058004d5c3&jsenabled=true

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS/TENDERS

EU Call for proposals for HIV/AIDS Research Projects under the FP7

On 20 July 2011 the European Commission launched a call for proposals for cooperation projects within the health theme (FP-HEALTH-2012-INNOVATION-1) of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The new call includes activities in the area of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Proposals can be submitted until 4 October at 17.00 (Brussels local time).

More information can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-HEALTH-2012-INNOVATION-1>