

Introduction

Welcome to the 2nd issue of CED EU Info of 2014. This issue is divided in two sections: the first section provides updates on EU topics relevant to the dental profession and the second section contains more general information regarding EU policy.

SECTION I – EU TOPICS RELEVANT TO THE DENTAL PROFESSION

CED MANIFESTO



CED Manifesto for the 2014 European elections

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is the representative organization for the dental profession in the EU, representing over 300,000 practising dentists through 32 national dental associations. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession, the CED promotes high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred and evidence-based professional practice across Europe.

European dentists call on EU decision makers to:

- Improve oral health of all Europeans**
 - Ensure universal access to oral and dental care and reduce inequalities.
 - Recognize that oral health is an integral part of general health and well-being.
 - Integrate oral health in general prevention and health promotion by focusing on common risk factors.
- Support a strong and independent European dentists workforce**
 - Support dentists and high educational standards of dentists by implementing the provisions on basic training of the Professional Qualifications Directive and updating its annex to reflect scientific progress.
 - Help us maintain the current effective self-regulation of dentists and avoid excessive deregulation in the context of the temporary measure for regulated professions.
 - Acknowledge the many and various contributions of dentists and other liberal professions to society and support the adoption of the EU Charter for Liberal Professions.
- Oppose standardisation of healthcare**
 - Support professional autonomy of dentists.
 - Defend patients' rights to receive personalized and high quality treatment.

Other development of European standards for delivery of healthcare that reduce the competences of Member States in health and would compromise the quality of healthcare in the long run

- Agree on a balanced regulatory framework for medical devices**
 - Support changes aimed at increasing safety of patients and quality of medical devices when adopting the new Medical Devices Regulation.
 - Avoid imposing excessive (unnecessary) requirements on dentists linked to the Unique Device Identification system or the implant card that would not improve patient safety.
 - Exclude classification under highest risk class III to only those devices incorporating measurement where measurement can be reasonably released in the human body.
- Deliver health-sensitive data protection legislation**
 - Improve the proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation by taking into account specifics of healthcare.
 - Uphold patients' right to safe treatment and clearly recognize its right to be forgotten for health purposes.
 - Ensure imposing unreasonable requirements for a Data Protection Officer and Impact Assessment on small dental and medical practices.

Please contact the CED for more information.

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Ahead of the upcoming elections of Members of European Parliament (MEPs) which will take place in all EU Member States between 22 and 25 May 2014, the CED has produced a Manifesto which summarizes the main EU policy issues of interest of European dentists. See the CED Manifesto [here](#).

ESCO REFERENCE GROUP "HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES"

On 4 March 2014, the Healthcare Reference Group of the European Skills and Competences, qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) met to continue to revise occupational profiles and discuss the definitions of each of the occupations. The

group starts now to work on job-specific and transversal skills/ competences for the health professions.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

On 12 March 2014, the European Parliament adopted its [position at first reading](#) to the [proposed General Data Protection Regulation](#). An open letter co-signed by CPME, CED and PGEU addressing the four remaining points of concern is available [here](#).

REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MASS SURVEILLANCE

On 12 March 2014, the European Parliament adopted an [own-initiative report on electronic mass surveillance of European citizens](#). Following the compelling evidence of the existence of mass surveillance activities performed by US NSA intelligence programmes, the European Parliament decided that it was crucial to take action accordingly. An open letter co-signed by CPME, CED and PGEU addressing points of concern of health professionals is available [here](#).

EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD (EPC) FOCUS GROUP

This Group was established to help assess the suitability of the EPC to a given profession and its impact on Member States. The Group consists of a limited number of participants (representatives of European professional organisations who have replied to the call for expression of

interest on the EPC in November 2013 and Member State competent authorities for the professions for which the introduction of the EPC is being examined at a first stage). The Group is having an active role in the discussions on the functioning of the card. It has met for the second time on 25 March and is planning to meet again in May.

On 7 April 2014, the Commission launched a public consultation to introduce the (EPC) for nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, engineers, mountain guides & real estate agents in order to prepare the implementing act(s) for these professions. It is not yet clear if the EPC will be introduced for all these professions by January 2016. The Commission is envisaging restricting to only a few due to technical difficulties and financial restrictions. This consultation is open until 2 June 2014.

EESC OPINION ON THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

On 25 March 2014, the European Economic and Social Committee's (EESC) adopted, during its plenary session, the [opinion on 'The role and the future of the liberal professions in the European civil society 2020'](#). The opinion highlights that liberal professions are an important component of any democratic society and offer significant potential for growth in terms of employment. It also makes reference to the [Charter for Liberal Professions](#) that CED

elaborated together with the other European professional associations.

MEDICAL DEVICES REGULATION

On 2 April 2014, the European Parliament voted in its first reading on the [draft Medical Devices Regulation](#). The Parliament adopted as its position at first reading the [text adopted on 22 October 2013](#).

EFFECTIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

On 4 April 2014, the European Commission adopted a [Communication on effective, accessible and resilient health systems](#). The Communication acknowledges the increasing interaction of EU health systems (particularly after the entry into force of Directive 2011/24/EU on Cross-Border Healthcare), and the need for their closer cooperation in order to function better considering the growing mobility of patients and healthcare professionals. The communication focuses on three actions and highlights a number of initiatives through which the EU can support Member States' policy makers.

EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH

Established by the European Commission ([Commission Decision 2012/C 198/06](#)) to provide sound and timely scientific advice on effective ways of investing in health, this independent Expert Panel is able to create Working Groups (WG) to support its work and examine further specific issues. By 27 February, it had issued three opinions one of which is currently under public consultation:

- [Preliminary Opinion on Definition Primary Care](#), prepared by the WG on Definition Primary Care. **This consultation is open until 11 May and CED Members should con-**

sider replying at national level.

- [Definition and Endorsement of Criteria to Identify Priority Areas When Assessing the Performance of Health Systems](#), prepared by the WG on Criteria Performance Health Systems.

- [Opinion on Health and Economic Analysis for an Evaluation of the Public-Private Partnerships in Health Care Delivery across Europe](#), prepared by the WG on Assessment study Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

The Expert Panel has also been requested to deliver an opinion on a [future EU agenda on quality of health care with a special emphasis on patient safety](#) and [on investigating policy options regarding competition among providers of health care services in EU Member States](#). These opinions are expected respectively by May and September 2014.

GREEN PAPER ON MHEALTH

On 10 April 2014, the European Commission published a [Green Paper on mHealth](#). The Green Paper considers the potential of mHealth and its technological aspects. It also examines mHealth potential to maintain and improve patients' health and well-being and encourage their empowerment. As announced in the eHealth Action Plan 2012 – 2020 the aim of this Green Paper is to launch a [public consultation of stakeholders](#) on existing obstacles and issues related to mHealth deployment and help identify the right way forward to open mHealth potential. Based on the responses, the Commission may take further steps at EU level to support deployment of mHealth. The public consultation is open until 3 July 2014.

In parallel to the Green Paper, the Commission has also published a [Commission Staff Working Document on the existing EU legal](#)

[framework applicable to lifestyle and well-being apps](#).

EUROPEAN MAP OF REGULATED PROFESSIONS

On 8 May 2014, the European Commission published a [European map of regulated professions](#) (to which access is conditional upon possession of specific qualifications or for which the use of a specific title is protected). The [map](#) is a part of the transparency exercise launched following the [modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive](#) and was announced in the [Commission's Communication of 2 October 2013 on the evaluation of national regulations on access to professions](#).

The map gathers the most important information on how professions are regulated in different Member States, such as the number of regulated professions and their breakdown by sector of the economy, the trend in the number of recognition decisions since 2005, and details of the national contact points responsible for informing professionals about the procedures and formalities to be completed in order to obtain recognition of professional qualifications.

SECTION II – GENERAL EU POLICY

REPORT ON DELEGATED AND IMPLEMENTING ACTS

On 26 February 2014, the European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report by József Szájer (EPP, HU) [“on follow-up on the delegation of legislative powers and control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers”](#) (2012/2323(INI)). The report contains a number of practical proposals to safeguard Parliament's prerogatives when negotiating the content of delegated and implementing acts with the Council. The report calls on the

Commission and the Council to enter into negotiation with the EP with a view to reaching an agreement on a set of criteria for the application of articles 290 and 291 TFEU listed in the report.

CHRONIC DISEASES SUMMIT

On 3 and 4 April 2014, took place the first [EU summit on chronic diseases](#).

The participants discussed medical, economic and social benefits of sustainable investments in health, ways to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and how to strengthen the prevention and management of chronic diseases, with emphasis on EU added-value and action. The conclusions of the summit are available [here](#).

INFORMAL MEETING OF EU HEALTH MINISTERS

On 28 – 29 April 2014, the EU Health Ministers met in Athens for a two-day [informal meeting](#). The Ministers discussed the effects of the economic crisis on healthcare, migration and public health, and eHealth. In connection to the effects of economic crisis the Ministers pointed out that it was important to enhance cooperation, exchange best practices and information among Member States. With regard to migration and public health, the Ministers focused among other on promotion of access to healthcare for all migrants, development of guidelines and methodology for the control of communicable diseases. Regarding eHealth, an emphasis was put on ePrescription and mHealth.

COURT OF JUSTICE DECLARES DATA RETENTION DIRECTIVE INVALID

Directive 2006/24/EC intends to harmonise Member States' provisions concerning the retention of certain data which are generated or processed by providers of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks. The Court takes the

view that “(...) *the wide-ranging and particularly serious interference of the directive with the fundamental rights at issue is not sufficiently circumscribed to ensure that that interference is actually limited to what is strictly necessary*”. Press release is available [here](#).

Comments, questions and contributions please contact:
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