

Introduction

Welcome to the 3rd 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

IMPLEMENTING MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

On 7 July, the European Commission (EC) organised a stakeholder consultation workshop to present the [preliminary report by ICF International on the EU Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#). This report intends to assist the EC by identifying measures that need to be taken at EU level in order to comply with the Convention. Comments to the draft report are expected by 31 July and the CED is drafting its response. More information can be found [here](#).

SCENIHR CONSULTATION ON NANOMATERIALS IN MEDICAL DEVICES

On 18 July, the EC launched a [Consultation on the potential health effects of nanomaterials used in medical devices](#) to comment on the SCENIHR [Preliminary Opinion on the Potential Health Effects of 14 Nanomaterials Used in Medical Devices](#) adopted by written procedure on 17 July. The CED is analysing the preliminary opinion and intends to reply to the public consultation by the 3rd October deadline.

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES ON NANOMATERIALS

On 30 June, the EC organised a workshop to discuss the [preliminary results of a study](#) supporting the EC on the preparation of an impact as-

essment aimed at identifying and developing the most adequate means to increase transparency and ensure regulatory oversight on nanomaterials on the market. A [public consultation is undergoing](#) until 5th August and the CED is preparing its response.

EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD (EPC)

The EC continues to assess which will be the professions that will participate in the first phase introduction of the EPC process among the list of seven proposed by the EC in April (nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, engineers, mountain guides & real estate agents). It is likely that the EC will start at least with nurses and mountain guides due to the significant mobility of these professionals. The implementing act(s) is expected in autumn and it is being discussed in the so-called Focus Group on the EPC whose meeting reports are available [here](#).

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

During its meeting on 5 – 6 June, the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council reached a partial general approach on specific issues of the draft Regulation, among others, the territorial scope and the transfer of personal data to third countries. In its [press release](#), the Greek Presidency stressed that the agreement did not exclude future changes to the text nor mandate the Presidency to engage in informal trilogues with the European Parliament. The Ital-

ian Presidency will continue to work on drafting the Council's first reading position.

CROSS-BORDER DIRECTIVE

On 10 July, the EC [urged 12 member States to notify full implementation of cross-border healthcare rules](#). To date, these Member States have not or not fully turned this Directive into national law, despite being required to do so by 25 October 2013. These countries have two months to inform the Commission of measures taken to implement Directive 2011/24/EU. Failure to notify adequate measures could lead to the Commission referring the cases to the EU Court of Justice.

5TH MEETING OF EHEALTH NETWORK

On 13 May, the **eHealth Network held its 5th meeting in Athens**. The members discussed new multi-annual work plan, continuation of services piloted under the epSOS project, Connecting Europe Facility, Commission's Green Paper on mHealth, general eHealth affairs, ePrescription guidelines, as well as SNOMED CT and electronic health records. More information can be found [here](#). Next meeting of the eHealth Network is planned on 18 November in Brussels.

EHEALTH FORUM

The [eHealth Forum](#) took place on 12 – 14 May in Athens. The Forum gives the opportunity to discuss how technology can bring positive

changes into healthcare systems and how it can tackle today's health and ageing challenges. This year the main objective of the Forum was to demonstrate how the successful use of eHealth tools, developed as a result of EU research and innovation funding could be an inspiration for other EU countries. The participants also discussed the issues of ePrescription, innovation partnerships and mHealth.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

On 25 June, the EC published an updated road map of its [Action Plan Against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance](#). Currently [WHO has launched a consultation](#) until 1 September to develop a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance. The CED Board Task Force on Antibiotics is monitoring these developments.

EU STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK 2014 - 2020

On 6 June, the EC adopted a Communication on an [EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014 – 2020](#), identifying seven strategic objectives and presenting key actions and instruments to address these. One of the strategic objectives is to address the ageing of the European workforce and improve prevention of work-related diseases to tackle existing and new risks such as nanomaterials. More information can be found [here](#).

EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH

Established by [Commission Decision 2012/C 198/06](#) to provide sound and timely scientific advice on effective ways of investing in health, this Expert Panel published on 15 July its [final opinion on the definition of a frame of reference in](#)

[relation to primary care with a special emphasis on financing systems and referral systems](#).

PATIENT SAFETY PACKAGE

On 19 June, the European Commission published a [patient safety package](#). The package highlights how the Commission and the EU Member States address the challenges of patient safety, progress made since 2009 and barriers to overcome in order to improve patient safety as foreseen in the [Council Recommendation of 2009](#). The package consists of the following documents: the Commission's **second implementation report on the 2009 Council Recommendation, results of the public consultation on patient safety and quality of care, Eurobarometer survey on citizens' perception of quality of care and patients' experience with healthcare, the Commission's Working Group on Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PSCQWG) reports on education and training of health professionals on patient safety** (with CED contributions) and **on reporting and learning systems for patient safety incidents**. All the documents are available [here](#).

SCENIHR FINAL OPINION ON NANOSILVER

On 16 June, SCENIHR published its [final opinion on the safety, health, environmental effects and the role of nanosilver in antimicrobial resistance](#). The aim of the opinion was to assess whether the use of nanosilver in medical care and in consumer products could result in additional risks compared to more traditional uses of silver and if the use of nanosilver to control bacterial growth could result in resistance of micro-organisms.

SECTION II – GENERAL EU POLICY

NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 1 July, the new and re-elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) took up their duties and held their first plenary session. They [re-elected Martin Schulz as President](#) of the European Parliament. Mr Schulz is the first President in the history of the Parliament to be re-elected for a second two and a half year term. The Parliament also approved the composition of its committees. The full list of members of each committee is available [here](#).

EPSCO COUNCIL MEETING

On 19-20 June 2014, the [Employment, Social Policy, Health and the Consumer Affairs Council \(EPSCO\)](#) held a meeting in Luxembourg. The Council discussed the future work on two draft regulations concerning medical devices and *in vitro* medical devices with a view to agreeing on a position in autumn. The Council also adopted [conclusions on economic crisis and healthcare](#). The conclusions outline the impact of the economic crisis on the healthcare systems across the EU and suggests ways of making them more resilient.

ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF EU COUNCIL

On 1 July, Italy took over the presidency of the EU Council for the next 6 months. The Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi presented the [presidency's priorities](#) to the European Parliament. The Programme of the Italian Presidency is available [here](#).

Comments, questions and contributions please contact:
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