



Memorandum of Understanding

between

the Council of European Dentists and the Standing Committee of European Doctors

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 340,000 dentists across Europe. It is composed of 32 national dental associations and chambers from 30 European countries. The CED was established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession.

The CED's objective is to develop and execute policy and strategy in order to:

- *Promote the interests of the dental profession in the EU;*
- *Promote high standards of oral health;*
- *Promote high standards of dentistry and dental care;*
- *Contribute to safeguarding the protection of public health;*
- *Monitor, analyse and follow up on all the political and legal developments and documents of the EU that involve dentists, dental care and oral health;*
- *Actively lobby the European Institutions and Parliament, in order to serve the legal and political interests of dentists, including consumer protection issues*

The CED defines its policy independently and its core activities are financed exclusively from membership fees.

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 and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

- *We believe the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare should be a reality for everyone. To achieve this, CPME promotes the highest level of medical training and practice, the safe mobility of physicians and patients, lawful and supportive working conditions for physicians and the provision of evidence-based, ethical and equitable healthcare services. We offer support to those working towards these objectives whenever needed.*
- *We see the patient-doctor relationship as fundamental in achieving these objectives and are committed to ensuring its trust and confidentiality are protected while the relationship evolves with healthcare systems. Patient safety and quality of care are central to our policies.*
- *We strongly advocate a 'health in all policies' approach to encourage cross-sectoral awareness for and action on the determinants of health, to prevent disease and promote good health across society.*

CPME's policies are shaped through the expertise provided by our membership of national medical associations, representing physicians across all medical specialties all over Europe and creating a dialogue between the national and European dimensions of health and healthcare.

CED and CPME reaffirm their commitment to working towards high quality health and healthcare for every patient in Europe. With this Memorandum of Understanding both partners endorse their shared understanding of the importance of promoting these objectives in all policies.

CED and CPME commit to working in partnership and cooperation on the following topics:

Patients' rights:

- The partners will continue to use their voice to defend the right of every patient to access the highest possible quality of preventative and curative healthcare across the EU.
- The partners reaffirm that treatment and health technologies should enshrine sound independent evidence-based medicine.
- Trust and confidentiality, as well as information and consent, must be at the heart of all patient care. The partners commit to ensuring patient data is protected.

Professional practice:

- The partners commit to safeguarding the independence of their professions for the benefit of patient safety and quality of healthcare. The partners also underline their commitment to safeguarding the professional obligation to comply with ethical codes and the fundamental principle of medical neutrality.
- The partners call for the establishment and maintenance of regulatory frameworks which support self-regulation and allow for professional autonomy, balanced by professional responsibility, to be exercised.
- The partners shall cooperate in promoting legal clarity for professional mobility in the EU.
- Working conditions for dentists and physicians in all Member States must be lawful and safe. The partners shall cooperate in calling for the implementation of EU legislation and the exchange of best practice in order to promote workforce recruitment and retention.
- The partners agree that education and training is pivotal to high quality healthcare and must be supported at all levels in line with scientific, professional and technological progress.

Healthcare:

- Patient safety and patient confidentiality: The partners commit to promoting patient safety and patient confidentiality in all policy areas, including professional practice and data protection.
- Health literacy: The partners will underline the need for the promotion of health literacy, to facilitate the meaningful empowerment of patients, to support the prevention of ill health and to aid the dissemination of evidence-based health information.
- Oral health: The partners reaffirm that oral health is an integral part of general health and well-being and commit to highlighting its importance.
- Antimicrobial Resistance: The partners commit to promoting prudent prescription practices so as to contribute to the containment of antimicrobial resistance as well as to raise awareness on the importance of preserving antibiotics' efficacy.

Done in Brussels, on 15 January 2014, in two copies, both texts being equally authentic.

Dr Wolfgang Doneus
CED President

Dr Katrín Fjeldsted
CPME President

Ms Birgit Beger
CPME Secretary General

[Signatures withdrawn for security reasons]