



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRACTICIENS/
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE – EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL
PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

Dear UEMO Members,

This bulletin announces a variety of EU-related health topics including the announcement of the new ENVI Committee at the European Parliament, the new appointed Health Commissioner, developments on the social awareness of vaccination efforts, UEMO Board in Brussels, OECD report on doctors' trends and many more.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Yours sincerely,

Calin BUMBULUT

UEMO President

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EU NEWS

I. NEW ENVI COMMITTEE IS APPOINTED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



After the European elections in May, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has become the largest in the new European Parliament, after MEPs appointed 76 members at the first plenary meeting on 3 July. Despite not all of the MEPs having their biographies available online, three MEPs have stand out as having a medical background: the Romanian **Cristian-Silviu Busoi** (EPP), the German **Peter Liese** (EPP) and the Croatian **Biljana Borzan** (S&D).

More information:

- [ENVI Committee MEPs full list](#)

II. CYPRIOTE STELLA KYRIAKIDES NAMED EU HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Confirming rumours circulating in the past weeks, the 63-years-old Cypriot clinical psychologist **Stella Kyriakides** is von der Leyen's pick for the post left vacant by the Lithuanian Vytenis Andriukaitis.

Kyriakides will have increased attributions compared to her predecessors, as she will **oversee the regulation of medical devices and pharmaceuticals**, previously under the competence of the Internal Market and Industry Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska.

The nominated Cypriote still has to endure official hearings from the MEPs, due to happen late in September/early October. Nevertheless, Stella Kyriakides seems to be a good candidate and likely to hold the next Health portfolio within the European Commission.

More information:

- [Find more about Stella Kyriakides here](#)

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III. GLOBAL VACCINATION SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS



The European Commission organised, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation, a Global Vaccination Summit on 12 September 2019, in Brussels.

The event took place under the joint auspices of the European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker and WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The overall objective was to give high level visibility and political endorsement to the topic of vaccination, which is the most successful public health measure saving millions of lives every year. It demonstrated EU leadership for global commitment to vaccination, boost political commitment towards eliminating vaccine preventable diseases and engage political leaders and leaders from scientific, medical, industry, philanthropic and civil society in global action against the spread of vaccine misinformation.

More Information:

- [Agenda of the Summit](#)

IV. OECD WORKING PAPER: THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS ON HEALTH SPENDING



The measurement of the impact of technology as a driver of health care expenditure is complex since technological effects are closely interlinked with other determinants such as income and the composition and health status of a population. Furthermore, the impact of the supply of advances in technology on health expenditure cannot be considered in isolation from demand and the policy context and the broader institutional context governing the adoption of new technologies. Hence, it is the interaction of supply and demand factors and the context that determine the ultimate level of technology use.

There are also important quality changes that come with technological progress that also have monetary costs and benefits attached. Modelling quality improvements, both in terms of benefits within the health system and outside (e.g. its impact on life expectancy, ageing populations, productivity and GDP), is a

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challenging task, and no macroeconomic models to date have tried to capture them. This paper presents a comprehensive literature review of the impact of technological advances on health expenditure growth, the 'cost' side of the equation.

More information:

- [Full Working Paper here](#)

**V. OECD REPORT: RECENT TRENDS
IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF
DOCTORS, NURSES AND MEDICAL
STUDENTS**



This report describes recent trends in the international migration of doctors and nurses in OECD countries. Over the past decade, the number of doctors and nurses has increased in many OECD countries, and foreign-born and foreign-trained doctors and nurses have contributed to a significant extent.

New in-depth analysis of the internationalisation of medical education shows that in some countries (e.g. Israel,

Norway, Sweden and the United States) a large and growing number of foreign-trained doctors are people born in these countries who obtained their first medical degree abroad before coming back. The report includes four case studies on the internationalisation of medical education in Europe (France, Ireland, Poland and Romania) as well as a case study on the integration of foreign-trained doctors in Canada.

More information:

- [Read the full report here](#)

**VI. E-HEALTH: F2F WORKSHOP
IN CZECH REPUBLIC**



The month of September was high in activity related to eHealth. Two workshops organized by eHaction – Joint Action Supporting the eHealth Network – took place in September. The first took place in Czech Republic (11-13 September) and the second in Amsterdam (19-20 September).

In Czech Republic, a F2F meeting was organized to discuss best practices and

approaches on data protection at national level. In Prague the network also discussed mapping, awareness raising and policy relevant actions on innovative use on big data in health. In Amsterdam, the Workshop was dedicated to “People Empowerment” in which it was presented an example of a Policy Proposal Document with Guidelines.

The first eHealth meeting happened in July, in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Workshop in Greece was tailored to Hospital CEOs and CIOs and the major topic of discussion was interoperability.

More information:

- [Find more information here](#)

VII. THE PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE PUTS HEALTH POLICY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



The Parliament Magazine September’s Issue has focused on health policy and the achievements of outgoing Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis. Reflecting on his mandate as he prepares to open the way to his successor, Andriukaitis has shared some thoughts. “Now we have pilot projects on e-prescriptions, on patients’ records – these are all things that were done in three and a half years”, said the current Commissioner. “With rare diseases, we have also introduced an interoperability system that offers the possibility of consulting patients in remote areas... I’m very proud of that.”

The publication covers different health policy areas, in particular those more prominent during his tenure as Health

chief. The Gastein Forum is also discussed as it will take place next month (2-4 October) and, as usual, it will convene high profile figures from the healthcare arena. Andriukaitis admitted he wanted to see healthcare as a high priority worldwide: “I would be more than happy to see the Gastein Forum become much more influential than Davos.”

More information:

- [Read the full publication here \(as e-book\)](#)

UEMO NEWS

I. UEMO BOARD MEETING IN BRUSSELS GIVES EMPHASIS TO HTA



On September 20th, UEMO Board gathered in Brussels to discuss current health topics as well as recent developments regarding partnership with the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The Board meeting counted with the external participation of the European Commission’s representative and expert in Health Technology Assessment (HTA), Ms. Flora Giorgio. Ms. Giorgio made an updated presentation on HTA, detailing its objectives, key principles and main areas of joint work. The Commission’s proposal makes a clear distinction between the involvement of patients and clinical expert and stakeholder involvement. Overall, the expected benefits of strengthening European HTA cooperation vary according to the area of domain.

For **Member States decision-makers**:

- High quality, timely scientific reports (pooling of HTA resources)

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and expertise; better evidence base for HTA across EU)

- Supports evidence-based decision-making at national level

For patients across the EU:

- Improved transparency and engagement in the HTA process
- Contribute to facilitating patient access to truly innovative technologies (due to more timely, evidence-based decision-making)

For the Industry:

- Clearer evidence requirements, facilitating investment decisions for R&D of innovative technologies
- More efficient evidence submission (single EU-wide dossier for joint clinical assessment)

Where are we standing now? The co-legislative procedure between the Council and the European Parliament is still ongoing.

The current Finnish presidency has expressed commitments towards the continuation of the HTA endeavors as well as the upcoming presidencies of the Council (Croatia and Germany).

**II. UEMO PARTICIPATED ON THE
JOINT EVENT PCWP-HCPWP AT
EMA**



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

On September 25, UEMO was present at EMA headquarters, represented by Mary McCarthy and Tiago Villanueva. According to the attendees, the joint event Patients' and Consumers' Organisations (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' Organisations (HCPWP) was mainly centred on vaccination and the problem of vaccine hesitancy. Ms McCarthy informed that the ECDC are piloting a Vaccine Portal to give safe, trusted and up-to-date information. It is proposed that the Portal is translated into every EU language which is said to be an expensive procedure.

Mary McCarthy has expressed concerns about those groups - migrants, refugees - whose language is Arabic, African or from Southeast Asia. Therefore, she suggested that animations or cartoons could be used with captions. This is a work in progress. Mr Villanueva added that the ECDC should have guidance for healthcare professionals on how to deal with side effects of vaccines "as there isn't actually much clinical guidance out there," he

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argued. Mr Villanueva also referred that in a session of pharmacovigilance in Europe that from a primary care perspective, there aren't enough GPs in Europe and their workload is already significant, so it is challenging to report adverse drug reactions because it is so time consuming; there should be more efforts to use electronic health records to make it a simple and quick task to complete.

Additionally, there were updates from the various work groups about new developed drugs and some discussion about celebrations for the 25th anniversary of EMA's founding, which will take place in January 2020. Pedro Villanueva suggested interviewing doctors to comment on the "before and after", proposing, for instance, Mary McCarthy, who was a GP 25 years ago, that would be interesting to interview people like her to tell how practicing medicine was 25 years ago, when there were much less drugs and much less information about drugs available.

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