



CPME 2007/127 EN/Fr

TITLE / TITRE

Minutes of the Public health, prevention and environment Subcommittee meeting, Mondorf-les-Bains, 15 June 2007

AUTHOR / AUTEUR

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CONCERNING / CONCERNE

Subcommittee on Public health, prevention and environment

PURPOSE / OBJET

DECISION

DATE

9/08/07

KEYWORDS / MOTS CLEFS

Minutes

Minutes of the public health, prevention and environment subcommittee

Hotel Sofitel Victoria Warsaw

Konferencja Room

March 16th, 2007

09h00 to 12h00

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda [CPME 2007/007 Final EN/Fr](#) was approved as it stood.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes for the last Subcommittee meeting [CPME 2006/111 EN/Fr](#) were approved as they stood.

3. Mental Health

Dr PODMANICZKY

Dr PODMANICZKY presented the Mental Health statement document [CPME 2007/032 EN/FR](#).

She especially underlined the following articles of the Treaty:

Article 13:

...may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation

And Article 152:

A high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities."

In this context she mentioned that the different expert groups in the Commission's Mental Health Consultative Platform were talking extensively about these issues, but there was a lack of concrete action..

She said that the Hungarian Healthcare System recent reforms had taken out mental health as a priority. The inevitable consequence was that most of mental health houses would close.

Dr van der VLIET suggested that the topic 'mental health on the working place' should be added to the document. Dr Violaki proposed to use the word "relevance" to the statement.

Document CPME 2007/032 EN/FR was adopted as amended and will be forwarded to the Board for formal approval.

4. Addictions

Sir Alexander MACARA

4.1 Tobacco advertising and smoking prevention

Sir Alexander MACARA

Sir Alexander MACARA gave an update on the '*Green Paper: Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level*' launched by Commissioner Kyprianou on 30/01/07 ([CPME Info 014-2007 EN/FR](#)).

It includes a recommendation for all Member States to adopt policies and implement them. Besides, it underlines the progress in legislations on smoking in public places.

Sir Alexander MACARA introduced the draft CPME resolution on tobacco [CPME 2007/023 EN/FR](#).

Dr PARSA-PARSI suggested two amendments in the resolution:

- 2nd bullet point (BP): to add specific locations concerning a smoking ban, those are: "smoking in bars, restaurants, clubs and hotels".
- To add a BP to call for an appropriate assistance for smokers to quit.
- To soften the language and replace the word "deplores" by "regrets" in BP4.

Dr GREWIN proposed to put the 4th BP in less sharp words, in order to achieve the 2nd BP. Therefore the words "moral and legal" should be deleted in the 4th BP. This was seconded by the Dr PARSA-PARSI.

Dr VIOLAKI suggested adding a BP to "express grave concern about the continued heavy recruitment of young people to smoking".

Sir Alexander MACARA stated that he would rephrase the resolution according to the comments.

The subcommittee adopted the resolution on tobacco with the proposed amendments and decided to forward it to the Board for formal approval.

4.2 EU Alcohol Strategy

Dr STAHLBERG

Dr van der VLIET explained that Dr STAHLBERG has taken over the topic from rapporteur Dr ANTILLA.

Dr STAHLBERG updated the subcommittee on the latest activities:

The Statement of the Standing Committee of European Doctors on Reducing the Global Impact of Alcohol on Health and Society [CPME 2006/074](#) was sent to the Commission in October 2006.

CPME was invited by the Commission for a preparatory round table meeting for the Alcohol & Health platform on 07/03/07. CPME policies were introduced there. It is planned to create the Alcohol & Health platform in July with CPME as a founding member.

The follow up document [CPME 2007/029 EN/FR](#) was presented by the rapporteur.

Dr van der VLIET enunciated that the proposal is to have this draft response to the Commission as a CPME statement.

Dr PARSA-PARSI suggested an addition to the 50mg/100ml max. alcohol limit for drink driving agreement: to have a zero tolerance regulation for people that possess a driving license for a maximum of 2 years. Dr van LEEUWEN pictured the special situation of professional drivers in relation to alcohol limitations. He suggested a

lower threshold than the agreed 50mg/100ml, and preferably a zero tolerance regulation as well.

Dr VIOLAKI raised her concern about the recommendation stated on the last page. Health authorities should not just collect reliable data or information, but also evidence from studies. Moreover, the importance of families should be emphasized in the last sentence. Families should be informed on alcohol behaviour of the patient.

The subcommittee agreed that special cases should be introduced to the alcohol limitation discussion. Dr STAHLBERG will include these comments accordingly.

Dr POCOCK noticed that an age limit for drinking alcohol is not determined in the document yet. Dr HENKE and Dr FJELDSTED responded that young individuals already use alcohol while this is illegal. Instead of fixing an age limit governments should implement law better, in order to prevent alcohol products being provided to young people. E.g. suspending someone's driving license in case of drunk driving would be a more effective policy.

Dr GREWIN suggested to let Dr STAHLBERG take over to investigate background information for drinking/driving policies and to have a mapping study on Member State practices in the field. This would enable the subcommittee to discuss a strengthened document in June.

It was decided to have this point on the Subcommittee agenda in June.

4.3 Doping in sport Dr ANTYPAS

Dr van der VLIET gave a short overview on the past activities in the topic. During the March 2006 Subcommittee session, it was decided that the Greek delegation, with the help of the Spanish and the Italian delegations would amend the [2005/077 EN/FR](#) paper on doping in sport according to delegations comments. None were received.

Dr van der VLIET suggested to put the issue on hold as there is no new document; CPME has a good policy on the issue – the Grunwald paper - and other organisations are far more active in the field of doping in sport.

Dr ANTYPAS explained that the Spanish delegation did send the new Spanish law on the matter, but that was the only comment he received.

It was decided to put the issue on hold and Dr ANTYPAS was asked to monitor developments in the subject.

5. Polypharmacy Dr van LEEUWEN

Dr van LEEUWEN presented the document [CPME 2007/039 EN/FR](#) on Polypharmacy, which is an elaboration on [CPME 2006/060 EN/FR](#).

The idea of organizing a conference on this subject, preferably under an EU Presidency, was discussed. It was decided to explore opportunities for EU

Presidencies and 2009 could be promising. The CPME Secretariat will assist in these activities, if needed.

Dr van LEEUWEN also stated to be grateful for suggestions for speakers and workshops for the planned conference.

The idea of organizing a conference was welcomed by the subcommittee. Dr Caxeiro (UEMO) and Dr Violaki will send their comments on document [CPME 2007/039 EN/FR](#) directly to Dr van LEEUWEN.

6. Avian Flu

Dr ANTYPAS

Dr van der VLIET explained that the Hellenic delegation had sent a proposal in February 2007 to the CPME Secretariat to have the issue on the agenda. The secretariat prepared an information document [CPME Info 038-2007 EN](#), an avian flu state of affairs.

Dr ANTYPAS said that CPME should contribute to actions preventing an Avian Flu pandemic.

The severity of the situation was set out, explaining that many Mediterranean Member States were involved already and an Avian Flu pandemic is not unlikely. New alert systems should be developed and cooperation with national public health authorities is advisable. Dr ANTYPAS underlined he strived for an EU Presidency adopting CPME's policies on this subject.

Dr GREWIN thanked the Greek delegation for the initiative and stressed that substantial work was already being done in line with WMA's actions, e.g. by ECDC and DG SANCO. He suggested that CPME could write a letter to DG SANCO to emphasize that NMAs (on a national level) and CPME (on an EU level) support WMA's actions.

Dr ANTYPAS will present a draft letter during next Subcommittee meeting.

7. European Wide Prevention Program

Dr van der VLIET explained that a stakeholders' e-WG constituted of DG DANCO representatives, himself, Dr Fabian and Caixero, a UEMS representative, Sir Alexander Macara, Dr Violaki, Dr Calloc'h and SG Tiddens-Engwirda were finalizing the programme.

During the February 2005 Executive Committee meeting, the preliminary prevention programme [CPME Info 127-2006 ENonly](#) was discussed. It was clarified that the Portuguese EU Presidency does not prioritize the issue of prevention and cardiovascular diseases.

It was decided that the CPME Secretariat would explore alternative opportunities of support.

Ms LE DEVIC explained that SG Tiddens-Engwirda and Dr Brettenthaler approached Dr Leiner, President of the European Health Forum Gastein. They are in contact to find an appropriate format for the conference, which might be a satellite event to the Gastein Forum.

Sir Alexander MACARA added that he was a member of the German EU presidency 2007 Advisory Committee for the organisation of the Platform on Prevention. He said that unfortunately, the Portuguese government representative did not attend the last meeting of the committee, were he mentioned that CPME would orgnaise a follow up event to the Badenweiler with the help of the Portuguese.

SG TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA pointed out that a prevention conference without the Commission's support would not be helpful to the goal. The Gastein Forum offers the opportunity to have both the Commission and Member States involved.

Since the idea was to have the conference supported by the successive German, Portuguese and French EU presidencies, CPME has the option to either consider the satellite conference at the Gastein Forum or to postpone plans for 2 / 3 years.

President Dr MART stressed that CPME should shape the topic and preserve it, since many other organisations are very willing to take the topic up as well.

It was decided to have Dr BRETTENTHALER find out about concrete opportunities within the Gastein Forum and have the Executive Committee decide on the opportunity of an event according to what Dr BRETTENTHALER would say.

8. ECDC

Dr GREWIN

Dr GREWIN gave an update on ongoing affairs in the ECDC Advisory Forum. He declared he was to step down from the position in the Forum. It was emphasized that the position requires a considerable effort.

Ongoing subjects in the Advisory Forum are collection of data, surveillance/protection of preventable diseases, cooperation with National Authorities active in the topic, and writing of reports.

Dr van der VLIET suggested that the CPME Secretariat will monitor developments in ECDC for the moment, since Dr GREWIN will officially step down from his function in the Forum in May 2007.

9. Nutrition

9.1 EU Diet, Physical Activity and Health Platform

Sir Alexander MACARA

Sir Alexander MACARA updated the subcommittee on the Platform meetings that he attended. The EU Commission's idea is to secure healthy from industry in their products. DG SANCO made clear that in the absence of genuine efforts, it would go for legislation.

There is no need for CPME to take further action as promoting healthy lifestyle is part of the day to day practice of physicians..

9.2 Labelling

Sir Alexander MACARA

Sir Alexander MACARA informed the subcommittee on the Commission's work in preparing a formal proposal on nutrition labelling. There is a major strategic conflict between 2 visions:

- The use of traffic lights safety labelling on front food products packages, which CPME supports
- - the use of GDAs supported by the industry as it is rather confusing for the consumer.

He underlined that the British heart Forum sent a report on the dangers of GDAs to DG SANCO.

10. Health and safety at work

Dr Van der Vliet

Delegations were requested to send their comments on CPME 2007/042 to Dr van der Vliet and the Secretariat. Dr van der Vliet will circulate an amended version for the June meeting.

11. Neglected Diseases

Sir Alexander MACARA

Discussion on this topic is postponed to the June 2007 Subcommittee meeting.

12. Any Other Business

None due to time constraints.

13. Agenda of the next meeting

According to the decisions taken during this meeting.

Dr van der Vliet closed the meeting and thanked delegations and interpreters.



CPME meetings
Mondorf-les-Bains, 15-16 June 2007
PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDENCY

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NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

AUSTRIA

Dr BRETTENTHALER

BELGIUM

Dr KERZMANN

BULGARIA

CYPRUS

Dr DEMETRIOU
Dr S. DEMETRIOU

CZECH REPUBLIC

DENMARK

Dr CHRISTIANSEN
Dr DØSSING

ESTONIA

FINLAND

Dr IHALAINEN
Dr SIUKOSAARI

FRANCE

Dr CALLOC'H

GERMANY

Dr PARSA-PARSI

GREECE

Dr ANTYPAS
Mr POLITIS
Dr VIOLAKI

HUNGARY

Dr PODMANICZKY

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ITALY

Dr BERGAMO
Dr MARTINELLI
Prof. OLIVETTI

LITHUANIA

LUXEMBOURG

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Dr VAN DER VLIET
Dr VAN LEEUWEN

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Ms RAZUMOVA
Dr RIIS STRÖM

POLAND

Dr KOMOR

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