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1 Public health

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU COUNCIL: provisional agreement on the future Regulation on serious cross-border health threats

The agreement reached between the Parliament and the Council of the European Union proposes new measures to respond to cross-border health threats. In the area of the joint procurement of medicines, an exclusivity clause limits parallel procurements and negotiations by participating countries; the Commission will also be required to inform Parliament about the procedures initiated. Additional rules to strengthen and integrate epidemiological surveillance systems are also defined.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: guidance document for the implementation of actions against non-communicable diseases

The guidance document was published as part of the Healthier Together initiative, which aims to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases in five specific areas: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, mental health and health determinants. The document proposes joint actions and identifies the legal and financial instruments available within the European Union to intervene in these areas.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: exploratory study on access to financial products for persons with a history of cancer

As part of "Europe's Beating Cancer Plan" an exploratory study has mapped the access to financial products for persons with a history of cancer in EU Member States. It has also investigated stakeholders' perceptions of the actions carried out in this field at the European level.

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2 Medicinal products and medical devices

HERA: identification of the top three health threats to prepare against

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) has presented a list of the top three health threats that require EU-level coordination for medical countermeasures. The prioritisation of these three threats is intended to ensure the development and capacity to produce and supply adequate medical countermeasures.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: first list of antimicrobial medicines reserved for human use

This list designates antimicrobials or groups of antimicrobials that should now be reserved for treating certain infections in humans. According to the adopted implementing regulation, the listed antimicrobials will no longer be allowed to be included in veterinary medicines or offered for use in animal feed.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

EMA: list of critical medicines for COVID-19, monkeypox and crisis preparedness

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has adopted informative lists of critical medicines for the management of COVID-19, monkeypox and for emergency preparedness. Companies holding a marketing authorisation in the EU will have to inform the EMA of stock levels, supply forecasts and possible shortages of the critical medicines produced.

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HERA: procurement and distribution of monkeypox vaccine

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) has signed a contract with Bavarin Nordic to purchase doses of monkeypox vaccine for EU countries, Norway and Iceland. This is the first purchase financed by the "EU4Health" programme. The first doses have been distributed to Spain, Portugal, Germany and Belgium.

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HERA: joint procurement framework contract for a pandemic influenza vaccine

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) has signed a framework contract with the pharmaceutical company GSK for the joint procurement of up to 85 million doses of Adjupanrix, a pandemic influenza vaccine. Twelve Member States and other countries are participating in this agreement.

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NINE MEMBER STATES: desired review of provisions for vaccine purchase contracts for COVID-19

The Bulgarian, Croatian, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Slovenian delegations informed the Council of the European Union on 14 June 2022 of the joint letter they had sent to the European Commission. They are requesting revisions to the COVID-19 vaccine procurement contracts, particularly with regard to surplus vaccines.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: public consultation on compulsory licensing of patents

In order to limit supply problems in the pharmaceutical sector and respond more effectively to crises, the Commission is considering the creation of an EU-wide compulsory licensing system, reducing the current fragmentation of national mechanisms. The public consultation aims to gather the opinion of the different stakeholders on the reasons and procedures for granting compulsory licenses in case of crisis, as well as on the existing bottlenecks.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: proposal for a Regulation on quality and safety standards for substances of human origin

The Commission has proposed a new Regulation on quality and safety standards for substances of human origin (SoHO), such as blood, tissues, cells, breast milk, and microbiota. The aim is to provide better protection for donors and recipients of SoHO therapies, standardise the monitoring practices of Member States and facilitate innovation and procurement.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Joint Industrial Cooperation Forum

This new Forum met for the first time in June 2022 to discuss how to ensure that the European Union is better prepared to react to future health emergencies. This forum aims to identify potential bottlenecks across supply chains, provide recommendations for addressing them and support industrial partnerships to strengthen the resilience of the medical supply chains.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: conference on the Regulation on Health Technology Assessment

The purpose of this conference was to present the European Commission's plans for preparing for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 and to discuss the opportunities and challenges ahead until the application of the Regulation in 2025. Presentations and videos from the conference are available online.

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BENELUXA: joint declaration concerning the entry of medicines on the European market

The delegations of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria and Ireland brought the Council of the European Union's attention to the lack of sufficient scientific evidence for conducting relevant health technology assessments. Solutions include increased dialogue between stakeholders and clearer guidelines for the industry.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: cooperation agreement with the United States on preparedness and response to public health threats

The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between the EU and the United States in the following areas: epidemiological surveillance and assessment of public health threats, procurement and evaluation of vaccine platforms and the research and development of innovative medical countermeasures.

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EUROPEAN UNION: signing of a partnership agreement on relations and cooperation with New Zealand

This agreement strengthens relations and cooperation between the European Union, its Member States and New Zealand in several areas. Among other things, the parties are encouraged to cooperate and exchange information on standards and conformity assessment to manage the regulation and risks associated with products, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: new partnership for professional skills in the digital field

This partnership mobilises companies, universities, public authorities and associations and aims to strengthen the digital skills of professionals working in various sectors, including health.

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EDBP-EDPS: joint opinion on the European Health Data Space

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) have adopted a joint opinion on the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the European Health Data Space. This opinion highlights the need to secure the secondary use of electronic health data, specify the arrangements for their use and storage and clarify the terms of governance.

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ECDC-EMA: members of a consortium for the creation of a pilot project for the European Health Data Space

In addition to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the consortium includes national health data agencies, including Sciensano for Belgium, and research infrastructures. Funded by the European Commission, the project will develop a European network of data source platforms and evaluate its feasibility and relevance.

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AI Watch: report on the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector

The European Commission's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Service (AI Watch) has published a second report on the use of AI in the public sector of European Union Member States. The health sector is the third largest public policy sector in which AI is used. Appendix 1 outlines the strategies that Member States have in place to promote the use of AI, including in some cases in the health sector.

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EU COUNCIL: recommendation to ensure a fair transition to climate neutrality

The Council of the European Union is inviting Member States to integrate social protection systems into climate, energy and environmental policies aimed at ensuring the ecological transition. Among other things, it is asking States to ensure the provision of accessible, affordable and quality health services for those most affected by the ecological transition, including by investing in healthcare infrastructures.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution towards a common European action on healthcare

This resolution emphasises the importance of improving coherence between health and social systems and invites States to increase investments in healthcare, including primary care, preventive care and health promotion. It calls on States to promote access to healthcare for all, including undocumented migrants, and calls for improved working conditions and wages for healthcare providers, care workers and other support staff.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the EU action plan for the social economy

In this resolution, the European Parliament underlines the important role played by social economy entities, including mutuals, in the care sector and calls on the European Commission and Member States to support their work for a quality care sector.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: public consultation on the cross-border activities of non-profit organisations

This consultation aims to foster a proposal for a directive on the cross-border activities of associations, including mutuals and other associations active in the health sector. The initiative aims to reduce barriers to cross-border activities in the EU single market.

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5 Economic policy

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: database on the implementation of country-specific recommendations in the context of the European Semester

The European Commission has launched a database which can be used to track the progress that countries are making in implementing the recommendations received in the context of the European Semester, including in the area of healthcare. All recommendations adopted since 2011, as well as the Commission's assessments are published there.

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EU COUNCIL: approval of country-specific recommendations in the context of the European Semester

The Council of the European Union has approved the country-specific recommendations proposed by the European Commission in the context of the European Semester. These recommendations concern the national reform programmes for 2022, including healthcare for eight countries (Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal) and long-term care for five countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Poland, Slovenia). A document published by the European Parliament provides an overview of the main changes made by the Council.

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EUROGROUP: end of close budgetary surveillance but continued health reforms expected in Greece

Eurozone finance ministers discussed the fourteenth enhanced surveillance report for Greece and welcomed the European Commission's intention not to extend the close budgetary surveillance after it expires on 20 August 2022. Between now and November, further reforms will still be needed, including in the primary healthcare sector.

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6 EU funding

EU COUNCIL: adoption of the Polish recovery and resilience plan

After the European Commission's positive assessment, the Plan was adopted by the Council of the European Union. Poland is planning reforms and investments in a more efficient and universally accessible healthcare system. Thus, 4.4 billion euros are earmarked to support hospitals and medical universities. Among other things, reforms in long-term care are planned to increase women's participation in the labour market.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Parliament wants the funds to be transparent, conditional on the respect for the rule of law and ensuring a maximum return on investment. It encourages Member States to use the full potential of the RRF to invest (among other things) in healthcare. The National Plans approved so far provide for a 37 billion euros spend on healthcare related measures, which corresponds to 8% of total spending. The largest contribution is for the renovation and expansion of hospital infrastructures.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

According to the report, approximately 87 billion euros are earmarked for the health and economic, social and institutional resilience pillar. Approximately 48% of this amount is for healthcare and 8% for long-term care. Over 60% of the country-specific recommendations on health were satisfactorily covered by the 25 national recovery and resilience plans adopted.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: adoption of partnership agreements with seven Member States under the 2021-2027 cohesion policy

France, Italy and Portugal will use part of the funds to reduce territorial disparities in accessing healthcare. Poland aims to improve the quality of and access to social assistance and healthcare services. Romania aims to improve access to healthcare, the quality, effectiveness and resilience of the sector and reduce health inequalities. Estonia will also invest in the health sector and in long-term care reform. Finally, Croatia will support medical training, the emergency medical response system and telemedicine services.

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| DOC 6 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 7 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 8 [EN/FR](#) HTML

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: additional funding granted to seven Member States under REACT-EU

The funding for Germany, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland will be used to support the digital transformation of the health sector or the recovery of the health sector after the pandemic, or to invest in energy efficiency in health facilities. The funding granted to Spain and Italy will support the recruitment and financing of health personnel, health services and the purchase of equipment and vaccine doses.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: adoption of the PEACE PLUS programme for peace and cooperation between Ireland and Northern Ireland

This new programme combines the previous INTERREG and PEACE funding strands for the 2021-2027 period. One of the six targeted thematic areas is building healthy and inclusive communities. To this end, cross-community and cross-border collaborative approaches to healthcare will be supported.

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EIB: financing granted to Ryvu Therapeutics for the development of new cancer treatments

The financing provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB) to the Polish company Ryvu Therapeutics aims to support the discovery, research and development of innovative treatments for cancer patients.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

ERC: mapping of funded research

The European Research Council (ERC) has published an analysis of all research funded under the Horizon 2020 programme for the 2014-2020 period. Of all the projects analysed, 34% are likely to contribute to health policies. The mapping provides a general overview of the countries and areas funded and a detailed overview of the projects funded by research area.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

7 Competition

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: formal investigation into anti-competitive practices by Vifor Pharma

The investigation aims to determine whether Vifor Pharma has restricted competition by illegally disparaging Pharmacosmos, its closest competitor in Europe in the intravenous iron treatment market.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Statement of Objections on the merger violation by Illumina and GRAIL

In the statement, the European Commission alleges that Illumina and GRAIL breached the European Union Merger Regulation by implementing the acquisition while the transaction was being investigated. Illumina is a global company specialising in genomic sequencing. GRAIL is a company specialising in cancer screening tests. Both are based in the United States.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of FutureLife by Hartenberg Holding and CVC

The approved acquisition concerns markets for assisted reproductive medical services and excludes the activities in Estonia and Finland. FutureLife is active in the provision of reproductive medicine and in particular in vitro fertilisation treatments. Hartenberg Holding is an investment company and the sole controlling shareholder of FutureLife. Both companies are based in the Czech Republic. CVC is a private equity fund based in Luxembourg.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of sole control of Cerner by Oracle

Cerner provides software and services designed for healthcare providers and clinical research. Oracle specialises in information technology. Both companies are based in the United States.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of joint control of Theramex by PAI Partners and Carlyle

Theramex is a UK-based pharmaceutical company specialising in women's health, including contraception, fertility, menopause and osteoporosis. PAI Partners is a private equity firm based in France. Carlyle is a US-based alternative asset manager.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of joint control of IFS by EQT Fund Management, HgCapital, and TA Associates

Impala Bidco Sàrl (IFS) is a Luxembourg-based company that develops business software. EQT Fund Management is a Luxembourg-based investment fund manager. HgCapital is a UK-based private equity firm specialising in software solutions for sustainable development. TA Associates is a U.S. private equity firm specialising in the technology, healthcare and financial services industries.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of Irepe by TSM

Irepe is the ultimate parent company of the Esperri Group, a provider of care for the elderly and people with disabilities, as well as rehabilitation care for substance abusers and people with mental health issues. It is based in Finland. TSM is a Luxembourg-based investment fund owned by the Triton Group, a private investment firm.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of joint control of Kedrion and BPL by Permira and Sestant

Kedrion and BPL are Italian and British companies active in the collection of human plasma and the development, production and sale of therapeutic plasma-derived products. Permira is a private equity firm based in Guernsey and Sestant is an Italian financial company.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of joint control of Ephesoft by Clearlake and TA Associates

Ephesoft provides an intelligent document processing platform. Clearlake is a private investment firm active in the software and technology services sectors. TA Associates is a private equity firm active in the healthcare and technology sectors. All three are based in the United States.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of the acquisition of joint control of Advarra by Blackstone and CPP Investments

Advarra provides ethical review services and technologies to biopharma companies, research institutes and clinical trial sites. Blackstone is an alternative asset management company. Both are based in the United States. CPP Investments is the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

8 Infringement proceedings

BELGIUM: transposition of European legislation on radiation protection

The European Commission has sent a letter of formal notice to Belgium requesting the correct transposition of the revised Basic Safety Standards Directive (Directive 2013/59/Euratom) into its national legislation. The Directive modernises and consolidates EU radiation protection legislation and lays down basic safety standards to protect members of the public, workers and patients against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

CYPRUS: transposition of the European legislation on medical treatment on board vessels

The European Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Cyprus for failing to communicate to the Commission its national measures to transpose the European Union rules on medical treatment on board vessels (Directive (EU) 2019/1834). The directive updates minimum health and safety requirements for improved medical treatment for people working on board a vessel.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

CYPRUS: non-compliance of new measures applicable to regulated professions

The European Commission has sent a letter of formal notice to Cyprus regarding the non-compliance of national measures implementing the EU Directive on a proportionality test before the adoption of a new regulation of professions (Directive (EU) 2018/958). It calls on Cyprus to ensure that the new requirements for the professions are necessary and balanced. Regulated healthcare professions are covered by this Directive.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

JUDGEMENT: dismissal of Illumina's appeal against the referral mechanism of the Merger Regulation

In Case T-227/21, the Court dismissed Illumina's appeal against the decisions of the European Commission to grant the request for referral of the Belgian, Dutch, French, Greek, Icelandic and Norwegian competition authorities and to declare itself competent to analyse the merger between Illumina and Grail, American companies specialising in genomic sequencing and cancer screening tests respectively.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

JUDGEMENT: procurement of emergency and extreme emergency medical transportation services

In Joined Cases C-213/21 and C-214/21, the Court affirms that the Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU does not preclude national regulations that provide that emergency and extreme emergency health transport services may be awarded by agreement, as a priority, only to voluntary organisations, and not to social cooperatives that may distribute rebates related to their activities to their members.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

JUDGEMENT: implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security

Case C-625/20 concerns Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security. According to the Court, the directive precludes national legislation which prevents workers who are members of the social security system from receiving a combination of two occupational invalidity pensions when those pensions are covered by the same social security scheme, while permitting such a combination when those pensions are covered by different social security schemes, since that legislation places female workers at a particular disadvantage compared with male workers.

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JUDGEMENT: value-added tax for insurance services provided by third-party companies in the name and on behalf of an insurer

In Case C-267/21 on the interpretation of the Directive on the common system of value added tax, the Court ruled that claims settlement services (including medical insurance) provided by third-party companies, in the name and on behalf of an insurance company, do not fall within the scope of the "services of consultants, engineers, consultancy firms, lawyers, accountants and other similar services, as well as data processing and the provision of information" referred to in the Directive.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

OPINION: conditions under which the state of health of third-country nationals may preclude the enforcement of their removal

In his Opinion on Case C-69/21 proposed to the Court of Justice of the EU, the Advocate General states that Directive 2008/115/EC on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, read in conjunction with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, precludes a third-country national who is seriously ill and staying illegally on the territory of a Member State from being subject to a removal order, if he will be exposed to a significant and permanent increase in pain due to the legal unavailability in his country of origin of the only effective analgesic treatment.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

CONCLUSIONS: exemption from excise duty on ethyl alcohol used for the production of medicines

In Case C-166/21, the European Commission brought an action against Poland for making the exemption from excise duty for ethyl alcohol used for the production of medicines conditional on the product circulating under a duty suspension arrangement. In his Opinion, the Advocate General proposes that the Court should dismiss the action in its entirety.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

10 War in Ukraine

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: proposal for flexible assistance to territories (FAST-CARE)

The European Commission has adopted the flexible assistance to territories (FAST-CARE). It thus extends the support already provided under the Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) by offering further support and flexibility for the implementation of investments under the Cohesion Policy, including those in healthcare. The Council of the EU has already approved the proposal. The Parliament is expected to vote in autumn.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: mental health and psychosocial support services for displaced persons from Ukraine

The European Commission has signed a €7 million agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to strengthen the capacity of its members and frontline professionals in providing mental health and psychosocial support services to people from Ukraine in five European countries.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Ukraine's association with the EU4Health programme

The European Commission and the Ukrainian government have signed an agreement associating Ukraine to the "EU4Health" programme. This will give the country access to funding to respond to immediate needs and contribute to the recovery in the health sector.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM: Ukrainian patients transferred to European hospitals

This European Union mechanism has enabled the transfer of 1,000 patients from Ukraine, Moldova, Poland and Slovakia to European hospitals.

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11 Publications

EPRS: briefing on care work as a public good driving sustainable growth

In view of the European Commission's proposal for a European care strategy, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) is calling for care work to be seen as a public good driving sustainable growth. The briefing shows that promoting affordable, quality care could generate between 100 and 180 billion euros in additional revenue each year. It includes social workers in home settings and certain categories of institutional workers, including personal healthcare providers.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

EUROFOUND: results of the fifth round of the Living, Working and COVID-19 survey

Published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), these results show that unmet healthcare needs have increased in Europe, particularly for mental healthcare.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

EPHA: joint position on antibiotic incentives in the revision of the European pharmaceutical legislation

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and eight other partners have adopted a joint position on the incentive for antibiotic development that the European Commission is considering to combat antimicrobial resistance as part of its review of European pharmaceutical legislation. This position demonstrates the risks of including a transferable exclusivity extension that allows a company producing a new antimicrobial to extend the exclusivity period to another product or to sell this right to another company.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

DSV: analysis of issues related to the medical device regulation

The Representation of the German Social Security Funds in Europe (DSV) analyses the challenges that hinder the implementation of the revised Regulation on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

ARTICLE: compliance with EMA post-marketing requirements for cancer drugs

In this article, Cherla and colleagues analysed the characteristics of studies that supported the temporary approval of cancer drugs by the European Medicines Agency during the 2004-2014 period. They then assessed the completion rate of data collection requirements five years after they were placed on the market and the influence this had on the permanent authorisation decision.

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IMA: disagreement with some aspects of the scientific advice on cancer screening in Europe

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (IMA) has expressed its disagreement with some of the advice proposed by the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA). In particular, it challenges the extension of screening programmes to prostate and lung cancer screening. In preparation for updating the Council of the European Union's recommendations on cancer screening, AIM has also published its own recommendations.

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HAI: call to prioritise health in artificial intelligence legislation

Health Action International (HAI) is calling on Members of the European Parliament to support amendments to prioritise health in negotiations on artificial intelligence (AI) legislation. The objective is to find solutions to the risks that AI could entail for health and patients' rights.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

EHPA: analysis of the issues related to the European Health Data Space

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) analyses the promises and obstacles associated with the adoption and implementation of the Regulation on the European Health Data Space.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

EDITORIAL: risks of the digital divide for the European Health Data Space

According to this editorial by van Kessel and colleagues, the European Health Data Space is failing to bridge the digital divide. Instead, it could reinforce inequalities and adversely affect quality of care, ability to participate in healthcare, and health outcomes. The authors are calling for greater consideration of more vulnerable groups in terms of digital skills.

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HEALTH POLICY: special issue on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic response

This special issue coordinated by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies summarises the lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and analyses why some countries appear to have handled the pandemic better than others.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

ARTICLE: the opportunity for EU health policy after the COVID-19 pandemic

In this article, Eleanor Brooks analyses the opportunity that the European Union's health policy could represent in the fight against health inequalities. To this end, she studies the changes underway in the European health policy in relation to public health, the internal market and fiscal governance.

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POLITICO: article on the challenges faced by HERA in joint procurement

This article analyses HERA's response to monkeypox. Among the challenges highlighted are the slow pace of the joint procedure and the practice of parallel procurement by several Member States, including Belgium, Denmark and France.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

WHO/Europe: pan-European strategy on primary healthcare

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) has released a pan-European strategy to strengthen primary healthcare based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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POLITICO: post-Brexit opportunities for rare disease treatment

This article analyses the opportunities in clinical research for the treatment of rare diseases offered by the UK's exit. The United Kingdom's desire to move beyond the European Union could indeed promote British research into cell and gene therapies.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

OBS: review of oral healthcare in Europe

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (OBS) has conducted a review of common trends and challenges in the financing, access, coverage and provision of oral healthcare services in 31 European countries. Among other things, the findings show that dental care is the most frequently postponed care for financial reasons.

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ESPN: reports on the implementation of health sector reforms in Portugal and Malta

These reports were published by the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). The report on Portugal introduces the elimination of user fees for hospital care services effective in June 2022. The one on Malta presents the controversies that have accompanied the expansion of access and scope of the legislation on in vitro fertilisation.

DOC 1 [EN](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN](#) PDF

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on global threats to abortion rights

The European Parliament calls on the European Union and its Member States to enshrine the right to safe and legal abortion in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. It urges Member States to decriminalise abortion and remove and combat barriers to abortion and access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and services.

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EU COUNCIL: conclusions on the EU strategy on the rights of the child

These conclusions of the Council of the European Union focus on the protection of children's rights in crisis or emergency situations. Member States are called upon to set up emergency reception procedures to guarantee the safety of the child in terms of physical and mental health, as well as access to basic services such as health services.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the call for a convention for the revision of the European treaties

The European Parliament renews its call for a convention for the revision of the treaties in order to implement the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The proposed amendments provide for, among other things, the adaptation of the competences conferred on the European Union in the treaties, including in the field of health and cross-border health threats.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

EU COUNCIL: preliminary assessment of the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe

In this assessment, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union concludes that a significant number of 49 proposals and 320 related measures can be achieved within a constant treaty and are already being processed, for example in the health sector. Eighteen specific measures require a treaty change, such as making health and healthcare a shared EU competence and standardising healthcare standards on a mandatory basis at EU level.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: communication on the proposals stemming from the Conference on the Future of Europe

In this Communication, the European Commission assesses what is needed to follow up on the Conference's proposals, gives an overview of the next steps and sets out how best to learn the lessons from the Conference. The appendix presents tangible actions (already in place, proposed but to be adopted, planned, and new) to respond to the proposals, including in the area of health (pp. 8-10 of the appendix).

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU COUNCIL: political agreement on the Directive on the resilience of critical entities

The Directive concerns vital services on which the livelihoods of European Union citizens and the proper functioning of the internal market depend. The agreement extends the number of sectors to which the Directive will apply to eleven. Health is one of them.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: report on research and innovation performance and the new European Innovation Programme

The report published by the European Commission analyses how science can help build a sustainable, competitive and resilient Europe. The results show, among other things, that 17% of funded research contributes to the health sector and that investments for research and development in this sector increased between 2019 and 2020. The European Commission also presented a new programme to support technological innovation in all sectors, including health.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: publication of the Eurobarometers on corruption

The European Commission has published the Special Eurobarometer on citizens' perceptions and experiences of corruption and the Flash Eurobarometer on businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU. According to the first report, three in ten Europeans believe that corruption is widespread in the healthcare sector. According to the second report, 68% of the companies interviewed believe that corruption is widespread in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sector in their country.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION: publication of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation

This Code sets out extensive and precise commitments to fight disinformation. It has been signed by 34 signatories, including platforms, technology companies and civil society representatives. Signatories will be required to report on the implementation of actions taken, including limiting medical and pandemic-related disinformation about COVID-19.

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EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN: maladministration in the management of two requests for public access to European Commission documents

The European Ombudsman has confirmed her finding of maladministration by the European Commission in two investigations. One involves access to documents regarding medical masks distributed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. The second concerns access to text messages exchanged between the Commission President and the CEO of a pharmaceutical company. In this case, the Ombudsman has called on the Commission to recognise work-related text and instant messages as EU documents.

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Editors: Rita Baeten, Jessica Martini

E-mail: baeten@ose.be

Website: <http://www.ose.be>

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