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- ECDC: assessment report on the state of preparedness of European health systems for health crises
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- EPC: policy brief on the free movement of intensive care specialists at the EU level
- WHO EUROPE: report on the health and care workforce in Europe
- EU HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM: report on the orientation and training of healthcare personnel
- EIGE: publication of the 2022 report on gender equality
- EOHSP: policy brief on backlogs and waiting lists management during and after the COVID-19 pandemic
- ETUI: list of hazardous drugs used in the healthcare sector
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- POLITICO: investigation of the pharmaceutical industry's lobby against the lifting of patents for vaccines and treatments against COVID-19
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- EUROPEAN COMMISSION: call for contributions for a European regulation on critical raw materials in the first quarter of 2023
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- WHO EUROPE: Regional Action Plan for Digital Health 2023-2030
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2020 and 2021
- COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: annual report on the state of the regions and cities
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION: adoption of the 2022 "enlargement" package

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: New EU approach to cancer screening**

The European Commission has proposed a Council recommendation to update cancer screening practices and, in particular, to increase the practice of screening for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer, as well as for prostate, lung and stomach cancer.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Communication to better prepare Member States for future epidemics**

The European Commission has proposed a series of measures to avoid a sudden increase in COVID-19 cases and to strengthen the response capacities of Member States to future outbreaks. In addition to immunisation efforts, it calls for investments in strengthening healthcare systems and in the mental health of healthcare professionals.

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**ECDC: assessment report on the state of preparedness of European health systems for health crises**

The report, published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), assesses the preparedness of health systems in five countries (Germany, Croatia, Spain, Italy and Finland) during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare coordination is one of the areas studied. Conclusions are drawn to improve the assessment of European countries' preparedness for crises.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people**

This report, published by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), analyses the measures taken at the European and national levels to limit the negative impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of young people. Access to mental healthcare services is also examined. The conclusion summarises lessons and proposes courses of action.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: presentation of the work programme for 2023**

In the field of health, the European Commission plans to continue the work that has already been started, like in the European Health Data Space, for example. In the fight against cancer, there is a recommendation about vaccine-preventable cancers. A commitment to a comprehensive approach to mental health is announced. Appendix 1 provides a list of planned initiatives.

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### **MDCG: action list to facilitate the transition towards the revised regulations on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices**

This list was adopted by the Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG), composed of representatives from all Member States and chaired by a member of the European Commission. It aims to reinforce the capacity of notified bodies, and to prepare manufacturers for the implementation of European regulations regarding medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices.

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### **EMA, HMA: joint statement on the use of biosimilar medicines**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) confirm the possibility of using highly similar medicines with another approved reference medicine (biosimilars) interchangeably with the reference medicine.

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### **HERA: purchase of antiviral treatments against monkeypox**

The European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) has purchased 10,000 treatments of Tecovirimat against monkeypox. Unlike past purchases, these treatments will now be channelled through the European Civil Protection Mechanism, RescEU.

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### **ECA: assessment report on the EU COVID-19 vaccine procurement process**

The report, published by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), assesses the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine procurement framework, the negotiation strategy and the European Commission's monitoring of contract implementation. The Court concludes that the performance of the acquisition process was assessed too summarily. It recommends that lessons be learned for the future, and that the updated pandemic procurement framework be tested.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: working paper on the weaknesses of the drug supply chain**

The document presents the results of the structured dialogue on drug supply security. It highlights the key elements that are important to consider when analysing this domain. It identifies target areas at the EU level that can feed into future actions to secure the supply and availability of medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and critical raw materials.

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### **HERA, CEPI: cooperation in medical countermeasures against emerging infectious diseases**

The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) have announced their intention to further cooperate in supporting the development and procurement of medical countermeasures, and vaccines in particular. CEPI is a global partnership of public, private, philanthropic and civil society

organisations. This cooperation will focus on research and development, and on strengthening production capacities. It aims to better prepare for crisis management, and to limit the impact of epidemics both within the European Union and beyond.

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#### **EMA: public consultations on data quality and on the use of the metadata catalogue of real-world data sources**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has launched a public consultation on two documents. The first is the draft data quality framework for EU medicines regulation. The second document is a best-practice guide on the use of the metadata catalogue developed by the EMA on "real-world" data sources. These data can be used to inform research questions and in study protocols.

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#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: manufacturers of pharmaceutical products affected by the revised Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive**

The European Commission has proposed to revise the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. A new system of increased producer responsibility will oblige producers to bear disposal costs. The list of water pollutants will also be updated to include certain pharmaceuticals used as pain relievers and anti-inflammatories, as well as antibiotics.

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#### **ESIP, MEDEV: proposals for the revision of European pharmaceutical legislation**

The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) and the Medicine Evaluation Committee (MEDEV) have presented a list of amendments to current EU pharmaceutical legislation. In light of the review to be proposed by the European Commission, the two organisations recommend actions in two priority areas: the production of robust and timely evidence coupled with more transparency, as well as the improvement of accessibility by reinforcing competition.

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### **3 Health services in the internal market**

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#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: report on the activities of the SOLVIT network since 2002**

Published on the occasion of SOLVIT's 20th anniversary, this report traces the evolution of the network and the services it offers to help citizens and businesses solve problems they encounter regarding cross-border issues that violate single market rules. These issues include the recognition of professional qualifications and access to cross-border care.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: two proposals for new rules on artificial intelligence liability and product liability**

The first proposal aims to harmonise and facilitate access to compensation for victims who have been harmed by artificial intelligence (AI) systems, including those used in healthcare. The second proposal aims to revise the rules concerning the strict liability of manufacturers for defective products (from smart technologies to medical devices).

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: publication of the European Care Strategy**

The strategy aims to ensure affordable, accessible and high-quality care services throughout the European Union, and to improve the situation of care recipients and both professional and non-professional care providers. In addition to a specific recommendation concerning early childhood, the Commission presented a recommendation on access to affordable, high-quality, long-term care (home care, community care and residential care). An appendix outlines the principles to follow for high-quality, long-term care. A holistic approach is promoted to better integrate all care services, including health care.

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### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolutions on cross-border regions and on economic, social and territorial cohesion**

With the resolution on cross-border regions of the European Union, the European Parliament welcomes the progress made in institutional cooperation, for example, through the pooling of healthcare facilities. However, it calls for maximum efforts to be made to eliminate the remaining barriers to accessing public services, including health services, and to the recognition of diplomas and other professional qualifications. The resolution on cohesion points out the lack of healthcare services in rural areas and the need to support these areas.

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### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the new guidelines for the employment policies of Member States**

In May 2022, the European Commission proposed the revision of certain guidelines for employment policies, including the guideline on promoting equal opportunities, strengthening social inclusion and combating poverty. In this regard, the European Parliament's amendments call, among other things, on Member States to ensure effective access to healthcare for children free of charge, as well as to ensure equal and effective access to public, sustainable, preventive and long-term healthcare services.

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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: proposal for a recommendation on adequate minimum income to ensure active inclusion**

The European Commission calls on Member States to modernise their minimum income schemes to make them truly effective in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. In particular, it calls on States to achieve adequate minimum incomes by 2030 and to improve beneficiaries' access to high-quality support services, such as healthcare. In a joint communication, the Commission assesses the distributional effect of Member States' policies, including access to healthcare.

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## **6 EU funding**

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### **EU COUNCIL: adoption of the Netherlands' Recovery and Resilience Plan**

This adoption comes after a positive evaluation by the European Commission. The plan contributes to the resilience of the Dutch healthcare system through measures such as creating a national pool of healthcare professionals to be deployed in times of crisis and strengthening e-health services for patients.

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### **COURT OF AUDITORS: report on the evaluation of National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP) by the European Commission**

In this report, the European Court of Auditors examined the evaluation of NRRPs in six countries (Germany, Croatia, Spain, France, Greece, Italy). It concludes that the European Commission's assessment was generally appropriate, but notes that there are still risks to implementation, such as unclear milestones and targets. The final recommendations call, among other things, for improved evaluation procedures, as well as better monitoring of how actions taken contribute to the implementation of country recommendations, for example, in the health sector.

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### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: study on the impact of recent crises on the policy of cohesion**

This study, commissioned by the Committee on Regional Development (REGI), analyses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on cohesion policy. Among other things, investments in the healthcare sector are examined. For the period 2021-2027, the study notes a shift towards a more structured, long-term approach focused, for example, on financing new infrastructure, reorganising health services, prevention and e-health, and healthcare access for more vulnerable groups.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: approval of two cross-border cooperation programmes for the period 2021-2027**

The "Interreg POCTEP" programme supports cooperation between Spain and Portugal under the European Regional Development Fund. It aims to provide, among other things, better healthcare infrastructure and access to healthcare for people living in cross-border regions. The "Interreg NEXT Hungary-Romania-Slovakia-Ukraine" programme supports cooperation between these countries. This programme is dedicated to cooperation between Member States and neighbouring regions, and is allocated under the cohesion policy. One of the goals is to ensure equitable access to healthcare and to improve the resilience of health systems.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: adoption of partnership agreements with Malta and Slovenia under the 2021-2027 cohesion policy**

Both agreements provide funding for the health system. Malta will invest, among other things, in training and research in health fields. Slovenia plans to invest in long-term care and mental health services.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: additional funding to Bulgaria, Spain and Slovakia within the framework of the REACT-EU programme**

These funds are granted within the framework of the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU) programme. In all three countries, they will be used to invest in the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: funding to Latvia under the 2021-2027 cohesion policy**

The funding received will be used, among other things, to invest in health care. Latvia is especially aiming to improve access to affordable, quality healthcare services and long-term community care.

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## **7 Competition**

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: revised communication on state aid rules for research, development and innovation**

This communication simplifies and updates the 2014 research, development and innovation (RDI) framework. This framework sets out the rules under which Member States may grant state aid to companies for RDI activities, while ensuring a level playing field. The new rules are adapted to the current strategic priorities of the European Union, including the European Health Union. Annex 1 specifies the eligible costs for health-related research and development projects.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: ban on Illumina's acquisition of GRAIL**

GRAIL and Illumina are two American companies specialising respectively in cancer screening tests and genomic sequencing. The European Commission's decision is justified on the grounds that the acquisition would have stifled innovation and reduced choice in the emerging market for early cancer detection blood tests. The Commission also renewed and adapted the existing interim measures to keep the two companies separate and to limit the negative impact on market competitiveness.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: communication on grievances addressed to Teva for anti-competitive practices with multiple sclerosis drugs**

Teva is a global pharmaceutical company based in Israel. According to the European Commission, it abused its dominant position in Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic, in order to delay competition against its multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: public consultation on the draft revised communication on market definition**

Market definition is an important first step in the review of mergers and most cases of anti-competitive practices. It defines the perimeter within which competition takes place, including in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. For the definition of pharmaceutical markets, for example, the Commission will take into account their particularities linked to the presence of different stakeholders (and interests). The new communication is scheduled for release in the third quarter of 2023.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: authorisation of the acquisition of joint control of Norstella and Citeline by Hg, WCAS and Warburg Pincus**

Norstella, based in the United States, is a group of information and intelligence providers for the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries, among others. Citeline, based in Luxembourg, provides specialised business intelligence, data and software to the pharmaceutical, consulting, financial, biotechnology and medical technology industries. Hg is a British company that invests in software and service companies. WCAS is a U.S. private equity fund focused on investing in healthcare and technology. Warburg Pincus is an American private equity firm active in various sectors.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: authorisation of the acquisition of joint control of Green Veracity Acquisition Holdings by LGP and CVC**

Green Veracity Acquisition Holdings is a U.S.-based company that provides pre-trial deposition and litigation support services in Canada and the United States. LGP, also based in the U.S., invests in companies that provide services to healthcare companies, among others. CVC is a Luxembourg-based company that manages investment funds.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: authorisation of the acquisition of joint control of Fedrigoni by BC Partners and Bain Capital**

Fedrigoni is an Italian-based manufacturer and global supplier of speciality paper products and self-adhesive materials. BC Partners, based in the United States, is an international private equity firm with a portfolio of companies that are active in various sectors, including healthcare. Bain Capital, based in the UK, is an international private equity firm active in a variety of sectors, including healthcare.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: authorisation of the acquisition of sole control of Wishcard by Oakley, EMZ, IK and M. Schütt**

Wishcard is a provider of corporate gift vouchers and gift cards, based in Germany. Oakley, also based in Germany, and EMZ Partners, based in France, are two private equity funds that invest in medium-sized companies active in various sectors. IK, based in Luxembourg, is a private equity fund active in various sectors, including healthcare. Valentin Schütt is a natural person and founder of Wishcard.

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## **8 Infringement proceedings**

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### **BELGIUM: failure to transpose EU rules governing regulated professions**

The European Commission has decided to refer Belgium to the Court of Justice of the European Union, along with a proposal to impose financial penalties, for its failure to transpose the Directive on a proportionality check prior to its adoption of a new regulation of professions (Directive 2018/958/EU). Healthcare professions are covered by this directive.

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### **BULGARIA, LATVIA: transposition of EU rules on radiation protection**

The European Commission has sent a letter of formal notice to Bulgaria requesting the correct transposition of the revised Basic Safety Standards Directive (Directive 2013/59/Euratom) regarding radiation protection into its national legislation. These standards aim to ensure the highest level of radiation protection for workers, patients and the public throughout the Union. It has also decided to bring an action against Latvia before the Court of Justice of the European Union for its failure to fully transpose the same directive.

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### **POLAND: non-compliance with EU regulations on parallel imports of medicines**

The European Commission has sent a letter of formal notice to Poland for non-compliance with EU rules on the free movement of goods regarding the parallel import of medicines (Articles 34 and 36 TFEU). In particular, the Commission is asking Poland to revise certain provisions relating to the granting and expiry of an authorisation for the parallel import of medicines.

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## **POLAND, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA: incomplete transposition of EU regulations on digital content**

The European Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia for the incomplete transposition of the Digital Content Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/770). While this Directive does not directly apply to healthcare and prescription health devices, it does apply to any digital content and services making up a medical device that can be obtained without a prescription from or provision by a healthcare professional.

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## **9 Court of Justice of the European Union**

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### **OPINION: concept of global marketing authorisation for a pharmaceutical product**

In her opinion on joined cases C-438/21 P to C-440/21 P proposed to the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Advocate General focuses on the conditions required to authorise the marketing of a medicinal product in the EU and to assess whether two medicinal products fall under the same global marketing authorisation. She also discusses the relationship between the competences of the Commission, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and Member State authorities within the context of this assessment.

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### **JUDGMENT: notions of insurance intermediary and insurance distributor**

Case C-633/20 concerns the interpretation of the provisions of the Directive on Insurance Mediation and the Directive on Insurance Distribution. According to the Court, the concept of "insurance intermediary" and, consequently, that of "insurance distributor", includes a legal entity whose activity consists of offering their customers a subscription, on a voluntary basis and in return for a fee that is received from said customers, to a group insurance policy to which they have previously subscribed with an insurance company, with the intent that this subscription entitles these customers to insurance benefits in the event of illness or an accident abroad, in particular.

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## **10 Publications**

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### **ESPN: report on the long-term care systems in place in the 27 countries of the European Union**

This report by the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) identifies six models of social protection applied to long-term care for people aged 65 and over. The following trilemma is put forward: ensuring adequate coverage of needs through affordable and quality services; determining the place of informal caregivers, while ensuring that informal care is not an obligation and that these caregivers are adequately supported; investing in long-term care in times of budgetary restraint.

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### **ESPN: analysis report on national social expenditure tracking framework**

Published by the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), this report summarises how the network's 35 member countries monitor and review public spending allocated to the social sector, including public spending on healthcare. Country reports accompany this general report.

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### **EPRS: briefing on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)**

This paper, published by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), provides an update on the legislative procedure regarding the European Health Data Space (EHDS). It recalls the context of the proposal put forward by the European Commission, the objectives sought, as well as the positions of the various actors involved.

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### **ED\*: special edition on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)**

Ed\* is a journal published by the German Social Insurance European Representation (DSV). This special issue presents the current state of the EHDS, and analyses the challenges ahead for Member States and social insurance institutions regarding its implementation.

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### **Eurohealth: special issue on the development of a true European Health Union**

This special issue analyses the development of the European Health Union. The first section explains why a true European Health Union is necessary. The second presents current policies and what is needed for a European Health Union. The third proposes legislative changes and strengthening health literacy to make this Union a reality.

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### **FEPS: policy brief on the free movement of health personnel and access to healthcare for all**

In order to strengthen the European Health Union, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) calls for the development of measures to reduce inequalities in the distribution of health professionals among and within member countries. These measures must respect the right to free movement of professionals while ensuring access to healthcare for all.

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### **EPC: policy brief on the free movement of intensive care specialists at the EU level**

In order to strengthen the European Health Union, the European Policy Centre (EPC) calls on the European Commission and the Member States to facilitate the free movement of intensive care specialists and to include this profession in the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. This would improve the resilience of health systems and the quality of intensive care provided at the EU level.

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### **WHO EUROPE: report on the health and care workforce in Europe**

Published by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, this report presents existing data on the health and care workforce in Europe, and identifies possible policy solutions to address the challenges faced by this workforce.

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### **EU HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM: report on the orientation and training of healthcare personnel**

This report presents the findings of the European Health Policy Platform Stakeholder Network on the orientation and training of the healthcare workforce. It addresses the critical skills this workforce needs to meet today's demographic, health, digital and environmental challenges.

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### **EIGE: publication of the 2022 report on gender equality**

This year's report published by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) explores the impact of COVID-19 on care, in particular. It shows, among other things, a decline in women's access to healthcare and a negative impact on mental health that is greater for women than for men working in the healthcare sector.

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### **EOHSP: policy brief on backlogs and waiting lists management during and after the COVID-19 pandemic**

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (EOHSP) analyses the factors that increase or, on the contrary, reduce delays in the provision of non-urgent care, particularly hospital and specialised care. Policy strategies are proposed to reduce waiting lists.

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### **ETUI: list of hazardous drugs used in the healthcare sector**

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) has published a list of 121 dangerous drugs commonly used in the healthcare sector that may cause cancer or reproductive disorders. This list is intended to inform health personnel, but also to advance the implementation of EU Directive 2022/431 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work.

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### **OECD: report on the impact of greater price transparency by pharmaceutical companies**

This report, published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), presents the results of a literature review and a consultation with experts on how price transparency could affect the dynamics of pharmaceutical markets.

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**POLITICO: investigation of the pharmaceutical industry's lobby against the lifting of patents for vaccines and treatments against COVID-19**

This investigative article published by POLITICO traces how the pharmaceutical industry mobilised states, including Belgium, and the European Union, to weaken and mitigate the proposal by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization to waive patent rights for vaccines and treatments against COVID-19.

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**OMI: series of eight reports on better access to expensive drugs**

The Oslo Medicines Initiative (OMI) is a joint initiative of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the Norwegian government. This series reviews the existing literature and proposes strategies to improve access to new and more expensive drugs.

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**EUROHEALTHNET: policy précis on reducing inequalities by investing in health-promoting care**

The EuroHealthNet Partnership calls for a rethinking of care models from a health promotion perspective aimed at reducing gender, social and health inequalities. This will help meet the growing demand for health and social services, enhance the value of caregivers and promote an economy based on well-being. The note lists the initiatives taken in this field at the EU level, presents good practices and proposes recommendations.

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**BOOK: analysis of health promotion policies**

Written by Charlotte Godziewski, this book argues that "health in all policies" is an essentially political project, which must be analysed from a political perspective that is attentive to institutional powers, competing ideas and discourses. In particular, the book examines the barriers to health promotion policies at the European Union level.

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**ARTICLE: structure of cooperation networks that shape health policies at the European Union level**

This article by Schrama and colleagues analyses the network of actors involved in the field of health technology assessment in particular. The authors distinguish between horizontal network structures that allow all members to cooperate, and vertical structures, in which some actors have a dominant position and the possibility to influence the agenda.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: communication on the application of European Union law**

In this communication, the European Commission presents the work carried out to ensure compliance with European legislation and to guarantee the same rights for EU citizens and companies. For the health sector, the communication mentions, for example, the regulation on health technology assessment and the response to cross-border health emergencies.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: proposal for a Council recommendation for a coordinated approach to the resilience of critical entities**

This proposal aims to accelerate the work of protecting critical entities in three priority areas: preparedness, response and international cooperation. An enhanced support and coordination role for the European Commission is envisaged, as well as enhanced cooperation between Member States. While priority is given to the energy, digital infrastructure, transport and space sectors, the health sector is also concerned.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: call for contributions for a European regulation on critical raw materials in the first quarter of 2023**

Stakeholders and citizens are asked to provide their views on the problems and potential solutions regarding the supply of critical raw materials. This information will feed into the development of a European regulation to increase and diversify this supply, strengthen circularity and support research and innovation. These critical raw materials are used in various sectors, including the health sector.

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION: proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Competences**

The European Commission wants to give new impetus to lifelong learning. Actions include increased investment in training and skills enhancement, as well as facilitating the recognition of qualifications obtained in third countries. The healthcare sector is one of the sectors recognised as suffering from staff shortages.

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**EIT: launch of the Talents in Disruptive Technology initiative**

This initiative by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to train one million people at the European Union level in the field of disruptive technology. The latter provides cutting-edge technology solutions to complex societal challenges, including those in the healthcare sector.

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### **WHO EUROPE: Regional Action Plan for Digital Health 2023-2030**

This plan was adopted at the 72nd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe. It supports countries in a digital transformation that is favourable to health and encourages investments in digital technologies aligned with health system needs.

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### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: resolution on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2020 and 2021**

Among other things, the Parliament calls on the Member States to guarantee equal access to healthcare for all and to put an end to the reduction of public services, a factor that increases inequalities. It also condemns all forms of discrimination in access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health.

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### **COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: annual report on the state of the regions and cities**

The 2022 report published by the European Committee of the Regions analyses, among other things, the impact of the reception of refugees from Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic on local health systems in Europe. It advocates for better involvement on the part of local and regional authorities in the new architecture of the European Health Union.

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### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: adoption of the 2022 "enlargement" package**

This package presents an assessment of the status and progress made by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey on their respective paths towards the European Union. It focuses on the implementation of key reforms and provides guidance on future priorities, including in the health sector.

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