

AIM General Assembly meetings (Brussels, 2-4 June 2010)

The presentations of the meetings and the conference, as well as the declaration on “health and environment” are available on www.aim-mutual.org under “Event / the XXVI. General Assembly of the AIM”.

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MEMBER'S CORNER

FNMF

2010 MEMENTO ON MEDICINES

End of June, FNMF published its 2010 edition of “Mémento Médicament” (Pharmaceuticals Memento) providing key figures on the pharmaceutical market in

France for the year 2009 and details of the coverage by mutual organizations. [More](#) – [Mémento 2010 FR](#)

EU INSTITUTIONS

EU COUNCIL

BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (7-12/2010)



www.eutrio.be

PRIORITIES FOR THE BELGIAN EU-PRESIDENCY

The Belgian EU Presidency will focus on 6 main priorities

- the way out of the crisis and the return to economic growth
- promotion of social progress and combating poverty and social exclusion
- the re-opening of negotiations concerning the climate and environment
- the deepening of the area of freedom, security and justice
- global influence of the Union and the efficiency of its external actions
- The further implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.

[More](#) – [Programme of the Belgian EU-Presidency](#)

PRIORITIES ON HEALTH POLICY

- Pandemic preparedness
- Europe's health workforce
- Innovative approaches for chronic illness
- Dementia
- Nutrition policies
- Pharmaceutical innovation

[More](#) - [Presidency meetings on health issues](#)

CONFERENCE ON “LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC A(H1N1)2009

This conference was held on 1-2 July 2010 in Brussels. Experts discussed 4 major topics: surveillance, multi-sectoral aspects, communication and medical measures. Among the conclusions, experts agreed that there is a need for studies that are independent from the pharmaceutical companies including for the monitoring of the vaccination coverage. They also agreed that it is necessary to review purchasing procedures to include elements such as the flexibility to adjust the quantities ordered to actual needs. [More](#) – [Conference conclusions](#) – [More on the Conference](#)

INFORMAL MEETING OF EPSCO COUNCIL, 6-9 JULY

1. ON PUBLIC HEALTH

On 6-7 July the informal EPSCO council meeting was dedicated on public health matters. Following issues were addressed:

1. **The fight against cancer:** all member states are engaging to execute long-term national cancer plans until 2013. Additionally, the European Ministers of Public Health agreed to maximum effort to ensure that screening will be available for population segments at risk for breast cancer, colon cancer and cervical cancer.

2. **The management of the H1N1 flu pandemic:** the ministers agreed on the following 5 priorities:

- The conclusions of the Conference will be transmitted to the WHO Executive Committee
- Revision of the EU Pandemic Readiness Plan
- A fast registration procedure and more rapid information about vaccines
- Development of **procedures for common acquisition of vaccines and antivirals:** The ministers requested that the Commission should develop a procedure for common acquisition on a

voluntary basis. Commissioner Dalli announced that he would submit a proposal for a common acquisition platform on a voluntary basis by autumn 2010.

- Joint management of the pandemic

[More](#)

2. ON EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

The meeting on 8 July was dedicated on employment policies. Ministers agreed that employment policies and the EPSCO Council should occupy a central position in the new economic governance and be at the heart of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The development of green jobs and employment policy in the context of climate change is one of the essential political priorities of the Belgian Presidency. [Press release](#) - [More](#)

3. ON SOCIAL POLICY AND PENSIONS

On 9 July, the informal EPSCO Council dealt with the social dimension of the EU2020 strategy. As regards pensions and social inclusion, ministers discussed the concept of “decent minimum income” and of “adequate pension”. [More](#)

EU COMMISSION

GENERAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONALLY ACTIVE SMES YIELD BETTER RESULTS

25% of EU 27 small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) export or have exported at some point during the last 3 years. This is revealed in a new European Commission study “Internationalisation of European SMEs” which is available on line. It maps the level of internationalisation of European SMEs and identifies the main barriers and advantages of internationalisation. [More](#)

EIB SUPPORTS THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITALS

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is lending €300 million to co-finance the construction of a new 800 bed hospital in the north of Vienna ([more](#)) and provides €300 million loan for Stockholm's Nya Karolinska Solna hospital project company ([more](#)).

HEALTH

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ADDICTIVENESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF TOBACCO ADDITIVES

The Commission's independent Scientific Committee for Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) launched a public consultation on a pre-consultation opinion on the addictiveness and attractiveness of additives in tobacco products. Deadline is 5 September 2010. Details on the consultation can be found [here](#)

OPEN HEALTH FORUM 2010

On 29-30 June the Open Health Forum 2010 Conference took place in Brussels. The central theme was “*Together for Health - a strategy for the EU 2020*”. The discussions focused on integrating Health in all Policies (HiAP). Following thematic workshops were held:

- Integrating Health and Environmental Policy to better people's Health,

- Positioning Health at the Centre of the post - 2013 Cohesion Policy,
- Impact Assessment and EU Health Policies: treat or opportunity?,
- Innovation for Health,
- Integrating Public Health in the Common Agriculture Policy,
- Involving Stakeholders - the role of non-state actors in the implementation of HiAP.

More on conference [documents](#) (workshop abstracts, workshop recommendations, conference final resolution) and workshop [programme](#).

5 YEAR REPORT OF EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR ACTION ON DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

On 12/07, an external evaluation report on the first five years of the European Platform for action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health was published. The report looks at 2 case studies on the Platform members' commitments for action in the key areas of:

- Advertising and marketing to children, and
- Food/ drink reformulation (the practice of reducing sugar, salt and/or fat in a product).

The full report and further information can be found [here](#).

HEALTH INSURANCE

GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS – HAVE YOU GOT YOUR EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC)?

Whether in another Member State for a business trip, short break or studying abroad, the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) can help save time, hassle and money if you fall ill or suffer an injury while abroad. To help holiday planning, the Commission published some facts, figures and information on the EHIC. [More](#)

INTERNAL MARKET

SOLVENCY II: FIFTH QUANTITATIVE IMPACT STUDY: CALL FOR ADVICE AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The Commission services have sent CEIOPS a Call for Advice along with the final technical specifications for the fifth quantitative impact study on Solvency II (QIS5). **European insurance and reinsurance undertakings are being asked to participate in the QIS5 exercise from August to November 2010.** CEIOPS will publish the report on the results of the QIS5 exercise in April 2011. [More](#)

CONSULTATION ON BARRIERS HAMPERING MORE EFFICIENT AND FAIRER RETAIL SERVICES IN EUROPE

The Commission has adopted a report that identifies key issues potentially hampering more efficient and fairer retail services within the Internal Market and is now launching a public consultation on the report to determine future policy priorities in this domain. Reduced accessibility to basic retail services, scarce information on retail offers beyond local markets, slow growth of e-commerce, potentially abusive contractual practices throughout the retail supply chain, lack of transparency on quality labels, unsatisfactory functioning of the retail service labour markets as well as very different approaches to environmentally friendly retail services across the EU have been identified as key issues potentially hampering the retail sector. The deadline for consultation responses is 10 September 2010. The responses will feed into measures that the Commission will propose in the autumn as part of the Single Market Act. [More](#) - [FAQ](#)

COMMISSION CONSULTS ON IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF SERVICES DIRECTIVE

The transposition deadline for the Services Directive was the end of December 2009. Since January this year, all EU Member States have engaged, together with the Commission, in a peer review process of mutually evaluating certain aspects of their national legal frameworks applicable to service providers. This innovative working method, known as the "mutual evaluation process" was foreseen in the Directive. It is in the context of this process that the Commission is inviting interested parties to share their views on those aspects of national legislation which are being discussed by Member States in the "mutual evaluation process". The consultation is open until 13 September 2010. A consultation paper and the questionnaire are available [here](#) - [More](#).

COMMISSION SEEKS CONTRACT LAW SOLUTIONS TO SMOOTH SINGLE MARKET FOR CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

Contracts are the basic building blocks for relationships between businesses and consumers. The EU's Single Market is built on contract laws. However, businesses – particularly small and medium-sized companies – are hampered in cross-border sales because they must follow different contract laws for each of the EU's 27 Member States. Only 8% of consumers buy online from another Member State. In addition, 61% of cross-border sales are rejected because traders refuse to serve the consumer's country. This is largely due to regulatory barriers and legal uncertainty about the applicable rules. To address some of these problems and boost the potential of Europe's Single Market, the Commission proposed in a strategic policy paper, several options for a more coherent approach to contract law. The goal is to bring more legal certainty for businesses and simpler rules for consumers. A public consultation on the policy paper will run until 31 January 2011. [More](#)

PATENTS: COMMISSION PROPOSES TRANSLATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE EU PATENT

A proposal on translation arrangements for a future EU Patent, the final element needed for a single EU Patent to become a reality, has been presented by the Commission. Today, obtaining a patent in Europe costs ten times more than one in the US. This situation discourages research, development and innovation, and undermines Europe's competitiveness. The new proposal builds on the successful three language system at the European Patent Office (EPO) and, if adopted, would drastically reduce existing translation costs. [More](#) - [FAQ](#) [EN](#)

PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL DEVICES SECTOR

ANTITRUST: COMMISSION WELCOMES DECREASE OF POTENTIALLY PROBLEMATIC PATENT SETTLEMENTS IN EU PHARMA SECTOR

The number of patent settlements in the pharmaceutical sector that are potentially problematic under the EU's antitrust rules fell to 10% of total patent settlements in the sector in the period July 2008 to December 2009 compared with 22% in the period covered in last year's inquiry into the pharmaceutical sector (January 2000-June 2008).

The amount of money involved in the settlements, between the so-called "originator" pharmaceutical companies and producers of generic drugs also appears to have decreased from more than €200 million recorded in the sector inquiry period to less than €1 million in the more recent period, shows a Commission report on the monitoring of patent settlements. It is good news for consumers that cheaper generic drugs are not being unduly kept out or delayed into the market. The Commission will continue monitoring the sector to make sure that the settlements in the sector are not delaying entry of generics in the market or do not contain other restrictions that would be problematic under EU competition law. [More](#)

CONSULTATION ON IN VITRO DIAGNOSIS MEDICAL DEVICES

The Commission launched a public consultation on the revision of Directive 98/79/EC on in vitro diagnostic (IVD) medical devices. Deadline of the consultation is 15 September 2010. [More](#)

ANTITRUST: COMMISSION WELCOMES COURT JUDGMENT IN ASTRAZENECA CASE

The Commission welcomes the judgment of the General Court (Case T-321/05) which largely dismisses the appeal by the pharmaceutical companies AstraZeneca AB of Sweden and AstraZeneca Plc of the UK. The General Court's ruling concerns the Commission decision of June 2005 that imposed a fine of €60 million on AstraZeneca for misusing the patent system and the procedures for marketing pharmaceutical products to prevent or delay the market entry of competing generic medicinal products (see [IP/05/737](#)). [More](#) - [Court press release](#)

RESEARCH

EU-FUNDED FOOD RESEARCH

Eight EU-funded research projects on food quality and safety were presented on 8 July at a conference at the EP. One project, ISAFRUIT, has found that eating two apples (300gr) a day can help reduce cholesterol by 10% and that dipping apples and peaches in hot water at precise temperatures can reduce brown rot by 80% and remove e-coli and salmonella bacteria. The other projects presented covered: tackling epizootic animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease; how diet and hereditary factors can influence the risk of cancer; setting up a Europe-wide food and nutrition information web-based service; alternative fish feeds for healthier and greener seafood; improving the freshness of industrially pre-baked bread; cereals as a weapon against metabolic disorders; and a sustainable network integrating international food research institutions. [More](#)

EU MARIE CURIE FUND BACKS RESEARCH INTO SUGAR-BASED ANTI-CANCER DRUG

An Italian scientist supported by the EU's Marie Curie research fund is helping to pioneer a new treatment that could lead to a breakthrough in the fight against brain cancer. [More](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EU LAUNCHES PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF PENSIONS

On 7/07, the Commission has launched a Europe-wide public debate on how to ensure adequate, sustainable and safe pensions and how the EU can best support the

national efforts. Ageing populations in all Member States have put existing retirement systems under massive strain and the financial and economic crisis has only increased this pressure. The consultation document, a Green paper aims to address the following issues:

- Ensuring adequate incomes in retirement and making sure pension systems are sustainable in the long term
- Achieving the right balance between work and retirement and facilitating a longer active life
- Removing obstacles to people who work in different EU countries and to the internal market for retirement products
- Making pensions safer in the wake of the recent economic crisis, both now and in the longer term
- Making sure pensions are more transparent so that people can take informed decisions about their own retirement income

Deadline of the consultation is 15 November 2010.

[Press release](#) - [MEMO/10/302](#) - [More](#) – [Speech Commissioner](#)

STATE AID: COMMISSION APPROVES UK PENSION SCHEME NEST

The Commission has approved under EU State aid rules the establishment of an occupational pension scheme, branded NEST, in the UK to ensure that all employees have access to an affordable pension vehicle. The scheme, part of a wider pensions' reform in the UK, is meant for low to moderate income earners that the existing market does not serve. The Commission found the measure to be compatible with EU State aid rules, because NEST carries out a service of general economic interest (SGEI) and receives no overcompensation for providing it. [More](#)

STATE AID: COMMISSION AUTHORISES €3 MILLION COMPENSATION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION LIABILITIES OF FINNISH SHIPPING COMPANY ARCTIA SHIPPING OY

The Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules a Finnish aid to compensate the newly established shipping company Arctia Shipping Oy, for supplementary pension rights accrued by its staff before Finland opened up the ice-breaking activity. The Commission considers this measure necessary to put the company on an equal footing with its competitors. [More](#)

HALF OF EUROPEANS WOULD CONSIDER MOVING FOR WORK

On 13/07 the Commission has adopted a report setting out in a consolidated way the rights of Europeans to live and work in another EU country. The report also provides an update on legal developments in the past decade. Currently, 2.3% of people in the EU reside in a Member State other than their own. However, a new Eurobarometer survey finds that 17% of Europeans envisage working abroad in the future and 48% would consider looking for work in another country or region if they were to lose their job. [More](#) – [MEMO-EN](#) – [Eurobarometer survey EN](#)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

AIDS: ENSURING AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AND FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION

Over 33 million people are living with AIDS world-wide and access to antiretroviral treatment remains poor. On 8/07, the EP approved a resolution calling on governments to pass new laws ensuring more affordable medication and to avoid free trade agreements that favour the commercial interests of the pharmaceutical sector over health needs. The resolution, adopted by 400 votes to 166, with 55 abstentions, was tabled by the following political groups: S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA and EUL/NGL. [More](#)

MEPS CALL FOR BAN ON FOOD FROM CLONED ANIMALS

MEPs renewed their appeal for a ban on food from cloned animals when they voted on novel foods legislation on 7/07. They also demanded a moratorium on foods using nanotechnology until potential health risks can be ruled out. If Council does not accept this second-reading position of the Parliament, an agreement will be sought through the conciliation procedure. [More](#)

EUROPEAN YOUTH GUARANTEE

A "European Youth Guarantee" to ensure that young people who are unemployed do not remain jobless for more than four months is among proposals made by MEPs in a resolution on improving access to the labour market for young people. Amid the economic crisis, youth unemployment is increasing faster than the average rate. Remarkably, "more than 5.5 million young people in the EU under 25 were unemployed in December 2009, equivalent to 21.4 % of all young people", says a resolution drafted by Emilie Turunen (Greens/EFA, DK) and adopted in Strasbourg on 8/07. [More](#)

DEBATE ON PATIENT 'HEALTH LITERACY'

On 24/06, a debate took place in the EP on health literacy. The International School for Public health and Primary Care at the Maastricht University is conducting a survey on European health Literacy. First results of this survey are expected in October 2010. More on the expert meeting is available on EurActiv [here](#).

EP 'PUBLIC SERVICE' INTERGROUP

The EP public service intergroup devoted its meeting on 8/07 on the assessment of the evaluation of the implementation of the Services Directive by the Member States.

EU COURT OF JUSTICE

No 67/2010 : 1 July 2010, [Judgment of the General Court in case T-321/05 AstraZeneca v Commission](#) - (DE - EN - FR). Competition: The General Court essentially upholds the decision of the Commission which found that the AstraZeneca Group abused its dominant position by preventing the marketing of generic products replicating Losec. However, the fine of €60 million has been reduced to €52.5 million because the Commission failed to prove that the deregistration of the marketing authorisations of the medicinal product in certain Member States was capable of having an impact on parallel imports.

For more information: <http://curia.eu.int/>

STAKEHOLDERS

MEDICINES IN EUROPE FORUM, HAI AND ISDB

INVITATION TO MEPS TO TRANSFORM THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE ON INFORMATION TO PATIENTS INTO REAL PROGRESS FOR PATIENTS

In view of the EP ENVI vote in September on information to patients MiEF (of which AIM is member), HAI Europe and ISDB urge MEPs to vote

for the amendments aimed at enhancing access to non-promotional, independent and comparative information. Efforts should first be focused on the information held by the European and national Drug Regulatory Agencies, whose lack of transparency is coming under increasing scrutiny, particularly by the European Ombudsman. There is a lot at stake. Patients' rights to reliable, independent and comparative information need to be guaranteed to enable them to make their own informed choices. [MEMO in EN](#) – [MEMO -FR](#)

GENERAL NEWS

HEALTH INSURANCE/SYSTEM

HEALTH SPENDING CUT

GERMANY CUTS HEALTH CARE SPENDING AND RAISES PREMIUMS

Faced with an estimated deficit of €11 billion in 2011 in the health care system, the German government decided to raise the contribution rate, shared roughly equally between worker and employer, from 14.9% to 15.5 % of a worker's income, according to Bloomberg.com. The measure is expected to bring in about €6 billion to aid the ailing insurers. In addition, there will be cuts of about €3.5 billion spread out among hospitals, physicians, dentists, insurers and pharmaceutical companies. In addition, the government has lifted the ceiling for the additional contributions (*Zusatzbeiträge*) that sickness funds can charge enrollees from 1% to 2%. Surcharges exceeding 2% of an insured's gross pay will be financed from general tax revenue. [More](#)

NHS SHAKE-UP GRANTS NEW POWERS TO DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

According to the English MOH long term vision of NHS, "[Equity and excellence : liberating the NHS](#)", the reform will lead to the abolition of all 10 strategic health authorities and the 152 management bodies known as primary care trusts, says BBC News. GPs, in consortiums, are to be handed £80bn of the NHS budget to buy care from hospitals and other doctors for patients in their area, as hundreds of middle-management organisations are swept away. The consortiums will be answerable to an independent Commission Board which will set objectives for healthcare, monitor performance and guide doctors in purchasing care. Patients, meanwhile, are to be given a wider choice on where to be treated and they will be asked if their care was effective and lived up to their expectations. All hospitals are to become a Foundation Trust or part of one, giving them far greater freedoms from Whitehall and allowing them to earn more money from private patients. However, the Labour and the unions, saying handing £80bn to GPs who are private contractors was a mistake and that the plan was a 'Trojan horse' for widespread privatisation.

SCOTTISH NHS REQUIRES RADICAL RETHINKING TO AVOID "TERMINAL COLLAPSE"

The inexorable rising trend in healthcare spending to meet demand, which has consistently risen at a higher rate than growth in the economy, is unsustainable, says a report by Scottish based think

tank [international futures forum](#). High spending on health care does not equate with the best population outcomes. Existing NHS strategies to contain spending, like efficiency savings, increased competition, restrictions on activity, and freezing pay, have been ineffective and have led to undesirable knock-on consequences. Further innovation to make the existing model work better merely postpones the system's inevitable decline and collapse. The report argues that low cost solutions such as helping people to develop their own capacity to cope with illness may be more important than fighting disease. [More](#)

CUTTING WELFARE SPENDING COSTS LIVES

A study in the British Medical Journal finds that levels of social spending in Europe are 'strongly associated' with risks of death, especially from diseases relating to social circumstances, such as heart attacks and alcohol-induced illness. The conclusion is that it's not just health spending that needs to be ring-fenced but welfare spending too. In fact, the research suggests that social spending is more significantly associated with mortality from diseases related to social circumstances (such as alcohol related deaths) than healthcare spending. The researchers found spending on social welfare to promote health, and not simply healthcare, had the greatest impact on public health. It is a key determinant of future population health that should be taken into account in ongoing economic debates. [Budget crises, health, and social welfare programmes](#)

GROWING HEALTH SPENDING PUTS PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

In some countries the recent economic downturn, with GDP falling and healthcare costs rising, led to a sharp increase in the ratio of health spending to GDP, says OECD. In Ireland, the % of GDP devoted to health increased from 7.5% in 2007 to 8.7% in 2008. In Spain, it rose from 8.4% to 9.0%. Given the urgent need to reduce their budget deficits, many OECD governments will have to make difficult choices to sustain their healthcare systems: curb the growth of public spending on health, cut spending in other areas, or raise taxes. Indeed, in all OECD countries total spending on healthcare is rising faster than economic growth, pushing the average ratio of health spending to GDP from 7.8% in 2000 to 9.0% in 2008, according to OECD Health Data 2010. Factors pushing health spending up - technological change, population expectations and population ageing - will continue to drive cost higher in the future. [More](#)

HEALTH PERFORMANCE

STUDY RANKS U.S. LAST AND THE NETHERLANDS FIRST ON HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Despite having the most expensive health care system, the US ranks last in overall performance compared with six other industrialized countries (Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, UK), according to a [Commonwealth Fund report](#). The authors, who compared performance on measures of quality, efficiency, access to care, equity, and the ability to lead healthy and productive lives, found that while each country has room for improvement, the U.S. stands out for not getting good value for its health care dollars. Per capita health care spending in the U.S. was \$7,290 in 2007, compared with \$3,837 in the Netherlands, which ranked first in overall performance. The authors hope that with enactment of the Affordable Care Act, however, the US will begin strengthening primary care and investing in health information technology and quality improvement, ensuring that all Americans can obtain access to high quality, efficient health care.

REFORM

US REFORM: GOOD OR BAD?

Is US health reform a “monumental system transformation or a fatally flawed compromise?” The answer to this question by an American economist in a conference, was “yes”, says an analyst in the BMJ. It is clearly the right answer because the health reform bill is so complex and contains so much that it's impossible to predict its effects. Indeed, health systems are “complex adaptive systems” where even small and simple changes may have unexpected results. According to the economist, three factors that meant that reform was unavoidable and the status quo unsustainable, are: many millions had no health insurance, US had much higher expenditure and lower life expectancy to other developed countries, the ballooning costs of Medicare. What happens will be determined by the effectiveness of implementation, which is highly complex, the behaviour of providers, employers, and individuals, and whether Congress feels the need to interfere, says the economist. [More](#)

SPECIFIC NEWS

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

PHARMA JOINT VENTURE TARGETS DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The American Medco and the German Celesio, 2 giant pharma distributors, have set up a 50/50 joint

venture to help European payors to run better and more effective chronic disease management programmes (DMP), according to PRNewswire. The new company, Medco Celesio BV, based in Holland, might partner with, or could compete with, existing private operators of DMP in Europe, such as Healthways, BUPA's Health Dialog, Pfizer Health Solutions and numerous national players. It could even cover diagnostics. The joint venture is initially planned to go into operation in Germany in 2010, including the collaboration of the parent companies' respective mail-order pharmacies, DocMorris and Europa Apotheek Venlo. It will then extend rapidly in phases to the major European markets, including U.K., France, Spain and Italy. [More](#)

HEALTH BASKET

UK DOCTOR ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES VOTE TO BAN HOMOEOPATHY FROM THE NHS

Homoeopathic hospitals and remedies should not be funded on the NHS in UK, given the absence of valid scientific evidence of benefit, representatives voted at the British Medical Association's annual conference, according to the BMJ. They also voted that no UK training post should include a placement in homoeopathy and that pharmacists should remove homoeopathic remedies from their shelves indicating they are drugs: they should place them on shelves clearly labelled “placebos.” [More](#)

PHARMACEUTICALS AND AUSTERITY

ENGLISH ‘NICE’ RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOOD INDUSTRY CUT SALT, SUGAR, AND FAT TO SAVE LIVES

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance aimed at saving “tens of thousands of lives” in England by focusing on the effect that food production has on the nation's diet, says the BMJ. The guidance targets three “toxic components” salt, trans fats, and saturated fats. “Everybody has this idea that prevention is worthy but that you don't get the benefits for decades. This is wrong. You get rapid changes in 2 to 3 years,” said the authors. It is supported with the examples of public health intervention programmes from Poland, Cuba, and the US, where for every dollar spent on health intervention in the US a corresponding €5 saving was seen in terms of reduced health costs. As well as targeting the food industry NICE's guidance calls for negotiations to occur at EU level to ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy takes account of public health issues and further recommends that local planning authorities restrict planning permission for fast food outlets near to schools. Other suggestions include using a pricing policy to make unhealthy foods less affordable. “There are definite parallels with tobacco control.” [More](#)

READERS' DIGEST

NEWSPAPER

EURO OBSERVER

- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies: 2010, Euro Observer Vol .12, No 2 “[Specialist human resources in Europe](#)”, Case studies on Germany, Greece, Romania and Sweden.

HEALTH AFFAIRS

- July issue of Health Affairs focus on: “[Weighing the Impact of US Health Reform](#)”

HEALTH ECONOMICS, POLICY AND LAW

- Special Issue 3 July 2010 on [cross-country issues in healthcare](#): Choice, Equity, Efficiency and Cost. Example: “[Choice of providers and mutual](#)”

[healthcare purchasers: can the English NHS learn for the Dutch reforms?](#)

SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR - ILO

- Social Protection Floor Manual now available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#) and [English](#)

BOOKS - REPORTS – LINKS

EU LAW AND HEALTH

- New Book "[Health Systems Governance in Europe. The Role of EU Law and Policy](#)" European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

HEALTH SYSTEM

- "[Three practical steps to better health for Africans](#)" McKinsey Quarterly. A new model to

make care more accessible to Africa's people is not only possible but affordable.

OPEN HEALTH FORUM

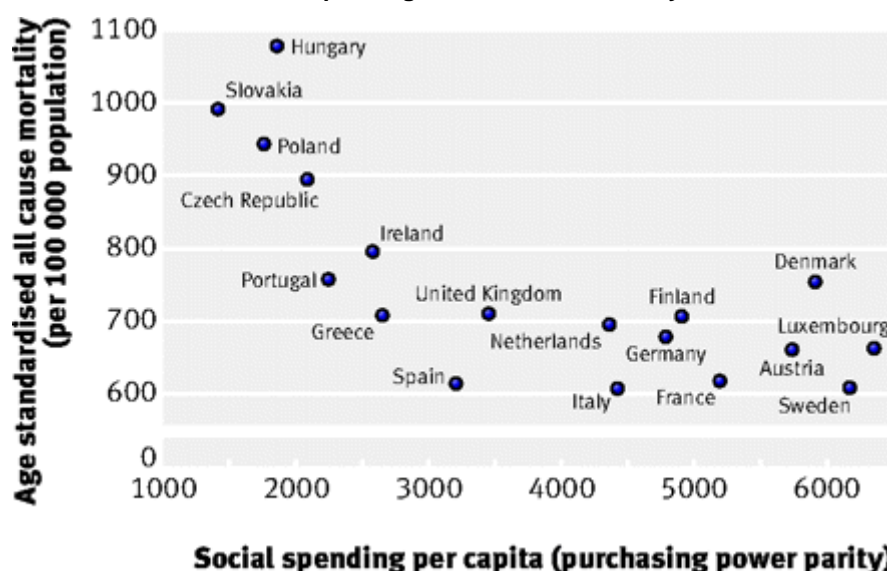
- On 29-30 June the Open Health Forum 2010 Conference took place in Brussels with a central theme "Together for Health - a strategy for the EU 2020". The conference documents/ presentations are available [here](#).

PATIENT INFORMATION

- "[Latin American Regional Meeting Report: Working Together to Improve Access to Healthcare in Latin America](#)", regional meeting of IAPO (International Association of Patient Organisations, Buenos Aires, Oct 2009 (EN-ES)

GRAPH OF THE MONTH

Relation between social welfare spending and all cause mortality in 18 EU countries, 2000



Source : Stuckler, D. et al. BMJ 2010;340:c3311

EVENTS

BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (SELECTION)

TRIO PRESIDENCIES

1/2010-6/2011: Spain, Belgium, Hungary
7/2011-12/2012: Poland, Denmark and Cyprus

BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (7-12/2010)



www.eutrio.be/

- 2 Sept, Future of Independent Academic Clinical Research in Europe
- 3 Sept, Conference on Child Poverty
- 7-9 Sept, Liège, [Pensions rights and adequate social protection](#)
- 9-10 Sept, [Ministerial Conference: Investing in the health professionals of tomorrow in Europe](#)
- 14-15 Sept, Reinforced convergence of social policies

- 23-24 Sept, [Ministerial Conference "Innovation and Solidarity"](#) (how to improve access to medicines)
- 30 Sept, Making Europe Fit for Work
- 10-12 Oct, Brugge, [Quality of Life for ageing people at work](#)
- 14 Oct, Hepatitis B and C in Europe
- 19-20 Oct, Brussels, [Innovative approaches for chronic illness in healthcare systems](#)
- 21-22 Oct, Namur, [Environmental health and social vulnerabilities](#)
- 21 Oct, Luxembourg, [EPSCO Council](#)
- 26-27 Oct, Brussels, on Social Services of General Interest
- 27-28 Oct, [Social Economy Conference](#)
- 7-9 Nov, [Pharmacovigilance Working Party](#)
- 8-9 Nov, [Reducing health inequalities from a regional perspective. What works, what doesn't?](#)

- 8-10 Nov, ["New strategies to monitor and control infections, etc..."](#) ; [Environment and Public Health in Modern Society](#)
- 17 Nov, [Role of generic medicines for the sustainability of healthcare](#)
- 19 Nov, [Redesigning healthcare](#) (by People living below the poverty line)
- 25-26 Nov, [High-level conference on dementia](#)
- 2-3 Dec, [ENG Assessment of EU nutrition policy](#)
- 3 Dec, [21st Century Healthcare for Europe](#) ("How to reduce inequalities and promote innovation?")
- 6-7 Dec, [EPSCO Council](#)
- 8-9 Dec, [Diabetes prevention, people and politics – A grand Challenge](#)

- 9 Dec, Forensic Psychiatric Care in Europe
- 9 Dec, [A European Strategy for Chronic Conditions](#) (rare and serious diseases)

OTHER EVENTS

- 13. European [Health Forum Gastein](#), "Health in Europe- Ready for the Future?" (6-9 Oct Bad Hofgastein, Salzburg, Austria)
- 36th IPSE Meeting "Cooperate for the advancement of not-for-profit Social Protection" (15 October Liege, Belgium)
- 30 March – 1 April 2011, Vienna, Austria, "*Hospital Pharmacists in a changing world – opportunities and challenges*", congress organized by EAHP- European association of hospital pharmacists. <http://www.eahp.eu/Congresses>

AIM

AIM WORKING GROUPS

TASK FORCE PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATION

On 1 July, the task force met under the chair of Wout Dekker. After a short overview on AIM, the

proposal for the future of AIM and its action plan, as well the internal and external communication tool of the AIM, the participants hammered out an elaboration of a communication strategy to canvass new members and associate partners for the AIM.

AIM

AIM AGENDA (MAIN ITEMS)

- European Affairs Expert Panel (Brussels, 16 September)
- Task Force communication & marketing (Brussels, 17 September)
- Pharmaceutical Expert Group (Brussels, 8 October)
- **AIM Board of Governors (Casablanca, Morocco, 20-22 October 2010)**
 20/10: *Morning*: Pension * – *Afternoon*: International Cooperation Committee *
 21/10: *Morning*: European Affairs Committee ** - *Afternoon*: Extra. General Assembly/ Board of Directors **
 Gala dinner
 22/10: Conference on "Statute of the Mutual and governance" **
 * Simultaneous French, English and Spanish translation. - **Simultaneous French, English and German translation.
- Task Force Public Relations & Communication (Brussels, 17 Sept)
- Health reform working group (open to all) (Berlin, 9 November 2010)

The monthly AIM Flash is compiled by Ph. Swennen and R. Kessler.

For more information on one of the topics mentioned above, please contact the AIM Secretariat.

How to use the hyperlinks in this document? Press the Ctrl button and click simultaneously on the link.