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**EU-Newsletter of
the German Dental Association**



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EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF THE FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE **FDI**

Informal meeting of EU health ministers in Warsaw – Mental health and prevention in the spotlight



On the occasion of the Polish EU Council Presidency, the health ministers of the EU Member States met in Warsaw at the end of March. The meeting served as an informal exchange on selected health policy issues at European level.

The main topic of the meeting was the mental health of children and young people. This has deteriorated significantly in recent years due to the increasing influence of digital services such as social media.

Increased stress, anxiety, and depression are among the most common side effects of excessive use of such online services. Another topic of discussion was the expansion of prevention measures, particularly in relation to smoking, alcohol and drug consumption. Discussions were held in Warsaw on how the EU and EU member states can improve and further develop existing prevention programs.

<https://polish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/informal-meeting-of-health-ministers-24-253/>

EU Commission initiates technical implementation of the European Health Data Space

After the EU regulation on the creation of a European Health Data Space (EDHS) came into force at the end of March with a delay of almost a year

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202500327,



the EU Commission has now begun to initiate the necessary technical implementation measures to ensure a smooth start to the EDHS. At the end of March, Commission published the open-source version of the central EHDS platform **HealthData@EU**, which will be used to gradually exchange health data across Europe. The open-source modules are intended to support the EU member states in connecting their national infrastructures to the HealthData@EU platform and make this connection technically possible. The aim of the EHDS is to digitally connect the EU's national healthcare systems based on interoperable exchange formats and to enable cross-border access to certain patient data. Beyond the primary use of health data, policymakers, researchers, and industry are hoping that the planned secondary use of health data, which is due to start in March 2029, will provide considerable impetus.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en

Consultation launched on the Critical Medicines Act

In mid-March, the EU Commission presented its proposal for a Critical Medicines Act.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/medicinal-products/legal-framework-governing-medicinal-products-human-use-eu/critical-medicines-act_en



The proposed regulation, which is one of the key EU health policy legislative projects of the coming years, is intended to improve the availability of medicinal products that are critical for medical care in the EU. To accompany its proposal, the EU Commission launched a consultation in April to find out from an interested public how it assesses the proposed regulation and what additional measures should be taken to guarantee security of supply.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14486-Critical-Medicines-Act_en

Dr. Doris Seiz from Hesse is the new Secretary General of the European Dental Association ERO

The President of the Hessian Dental Association, Dr. Doris Seiz, was elected by a large majority as the new Secretary General of the ERO at the General Assembly of the European Regional Organization (ERO) of the World Dental Association (FDI) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, at the beginning of May.

One of the ERO's central concerns is to sustainably strengthen cooperation between dental professional associations in the fields of research, continuing education, practice and public health and to improve the health policy framework in the interests of the dental profession and its patients.



Vaccine deals - more transparency demanded from the European Commission



In mid-May, the General Court of the European Union (General Court) ruled that the European Commission had wrongly refused to publish text messages between Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla and had breached EU transparency rules.

The background to the legal dispute were demands that the EU Commission should make text messages in connection with negotiations on COVID-19 vaccine contracts in 2021 public. The EU Commission had refused to do so, arguing in return that the messages in question had not been archived and were therefore no longer available. It also pointed out that such text messages were not considered official documents and were therefore not subject to the transparency rules. A view that was not shared by the EGC. The EU Commission can now decide whether it wishes to challenge the ruling and appeal to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) as the final instance.

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2025-05/cp250060en.pdf>

New EU internal market strategy published - new impetus announced

At the end of May, the European Commission presented its new internal market strategy in Brussels. The Brussels authority wants to give new impetus to the single market through a bundle of measures.



According to EU Internal Market Commissioner Stéphane Séjourné, the aim of the strategy is an uncomplicated and strong internal market. To this end, the ten biggest obstacles (“terrible ten”) are to be removed. These include, for example, the lengthy recognition of professional qualifications, the slow development of standards and norms, restrictions on cross-border work and overly complicated national and European rules, as well as the inadequate implementation of existing EU internal market rules. To make recognition procedures faster and more efficient, for example, greater use is to be made of digital instruments and systems for the automatic recognition of professional qualifications are to be expanded. The EU Commission has announced corresponding legislative proposals for the coming year.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1274

Pharmaceutical package - Council clears the way for negotiations with the EP



At the beginning of June, the EU Member States meeting in the Council agreed on a common position regarding the so-called pharmaceutical package. This clears the way for the so-called trilogue negotiations with the European

Parliament, which had already positioned itself before the European elections last year.

The EU Commission's original proposal dates back from April 2023. The pharmaceutical package which is one of the most important ongoing EU legislative procedures in the health sector is intended to modernize the current EU regulations for medicinal products, which are over 20 years old, and adapt them to the changed circumstances.

The overarching objectives of the pharmaceutical package are to ensure and improve access, availability and affordability of medicinal products. Authorization procedure are to be accelerated and bottlenecks in the supply of medicines prevented. The aim of the current Danish EU Council Presidency is to conclude the negotiations by the end of the year.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/04/pharma-package-council-agrees-its-position-on-new-rules-for-a-fairer-and-more-competitive-eu-pharmaceutical-sector/>

Council agrees on measures to protect the mental health of children and young people in the digital age – EU to do more on prevention

In view of the growing number of mental health problems among children and young people, the health ministers of the EU Member States adopted so-called conclusions on promoting and protecting the mental health of children and young people in the digital age at the end of June. In particular, the EU member states want to make the digital industry more responsible, tighten access controls to digital services

and improve young people's media skills. There was also an exchange of ideas on measures to prevent and reduce the consumption of tobacco and alcohol, as the Council of European



Dentists (CED) has been calling for for many years.

During the Council meeting, several ministers spoke out in favor of prioritizing the revision and tightening of EU tobacco regulations.

The Council also welcomed the EU Commission's commitment to develop a new action plan to combat cardiovascular disease. A key concern of many member states was the protection of children and young people, particularly in view of the increasing availability and attractiveness of new tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2025/06/20/>

No money for health? Massive criticism from the European Parliament regarding the multi-annual EU budget

In mid-July, the EU Commission presented its draft for the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) from 2028 to 2034, which provides for a significant increase in EU funding to a total of two trillion euros over the entire duration of the program.

https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/eu-budget-2028-2034-stronger-europe-2025-07-16_en

However, the previous EU health program EU4Health is to be abolished as an independent program. Under the heading **Health, Biotech and Bioeconomy and Resilience**, the health funding area is to be merged into a new EU Competitiveness Fund. According to the Commission, the focus will be on health prevention, the efficiency and resilience of healthcare systems and digitalization, including the use of health data.



The Commission's proposals were heavily criticized by health politicians in the European Parliament. They demanded that the MFF in the healthcare sector should not be geared solely towards

promoting competition but should focus primarily on the interests of patients.

Leveraging prevention successes - making EU healthcare systems fit for the future! 20th European Day of the BZÄK



The healthcare systems of the EU Member States are under pressure: demographic change, rising costs, a shortage of specialists and increasing bureaucracy pose major challenges. How the EU can counter these developments and what political goals it is pursuing were discussed with representatives of the EU institutions and health associations at the 20th Europe Day of the German Dental Association (BZÄK) in Brussels on July 16.

BZÄK President Prof. Dr. Christoph Benz emphasized that the consistent strengthening of prevention is a key to easing the burden. The German dental profession can make a valuable contribution here: it has decades of experience in the field of prevention, which is reflected in measurable successes. The current Sixth German Oral Health Study (DMS 6) impressively demonstrates the improved oral health of almost all population groups. This evidence-based expertise should be systematically incorporated into European health policy - for the benefit of all, according to Benz.

https://www.bzaek.de/fileadmin/PDFs/eu/europatag_2025.pdf

Background: The new EU Commission has been in office since December 2024. Prevention is now a stronger focus of EU policy. In the "Mission Letter", Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave Health Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi the task of intensifying prevention work and ensuring a comprehensive approach to health promotion and disease prevention across the entire life course - also to relieve the burden on healthcare systems.

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b1817a1b-e62e-4949-bbb8-ebf29b54c8bd_en?filename=Mission%20letter%20-%20VARHELYI.pdf

Editorial by Dr. Alfred Büttner
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