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Editorial

EU's founding father Jean Monnet is widely quoted for saying that *“Europe will be forged in crisis and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises”*. The regulation of medicines across the Union seems to have followed this logic.

Developed in 1965, the first EU pharmaceutical legislation was a response to the tragic consequences that the use of the drug thalidomide had in thousands of infants during the 1960s. More than 50 years later, the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic triggered the formation of a *“European Health Union”* with the pharmaceutical package providing the last piece of the new EU health architecture.

Published by the European Commission last 26 April 2023, this proposal to review the EU pharmaceutical legislation European Commission has been awaited for long by EPHA, its members, and many other stakeholders.

While we are yet to analyse and react to the contents of the new proposed Regulation and Directive (which are around 400 pages long), this month's top stories explore a few elements deserving an early welcome. Among these are the recognition of the [role that academia and non-for-profit entities](#) have on the development of innovative therapies and the increased attention to prevent and deal with [shortages of medicines](#), a pre-existing issue that became even more evident during the pandemic. We also look at a first, yet very timid step towards [transparency of pharmaceutical R&D costs](#).

The past 3 years undoubtedly left a mark on this landmark package. It is now up to the co-legislators in the European Parliament and the Council to develop the Commission's proposals with patients and people at heart. Making medicines affordable and equitably accessible across the EU is still a work in progress.

Further feedback from EPHA and its members on the proposal will be coming soon. Meanwhile, I hope you will enjoy this newsletter!



Rosa Castro
Senior Policy Development Manager, EPHA

This Month's Top Stories



Academic development of medicines – a path to solving unmet medical needs

By the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

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What could change in the fight against medicine shortages in Europe?

By France Assos Santé

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Will transparency of R&D costs lead to more affordable medicines?

By the European Public Health Alliance

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Giving Health a Voice - Podcast



Global Health Threats and Opportunities: Insights from Dr. Greg Martin

Greg Martin is the Director of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre in Ireland and has a diverse background in global health. During this episode, we address global health challenges and the importance of remembering marginalized populations and how focusing on their needs can benefit the entire system.

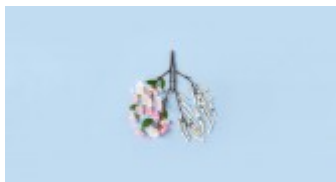
[LISTEN HERE](#)

EPHA Updates

The Rome Manifesto — reinvigorating Public Health advocacy to put people and the planet first

In May 2023, over 3,000 public health professionals and researchers, policymakers, and students will convene in Rome, Italy, for the 17th World Congress on Public Health.

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A tobacco-free Europe — EPHA's evaluation of the legislative framework for tobacco control

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MEPs and citizens agree: children should have access to healthy food in schools

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Cleaner road transport requires an ambitious Euro 7 Emission Standards Policy

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New alcohol labelling law in Ireland – an important step to ensure consumer's rights

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No child should experience poverty and social exclusion in a Social Europe

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How to save hundreds of thousands of lives in Europe through Ambient Air Quality Directives

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Latest Events



Roma Week 2023: looking back to carve a path forward

On the 27th of April, our co-organised event Unlocking the Potential of Young Roma Children in Europe took place. We wanted to highlight how antigypsyism and poverty often cause structural barriers in the earliest stages of the lives of Roma children.

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News From Members

The Health and Europe Centre

ENSURE project: break the cycle of disadvantage which prevents vulnerable people from being socially included.

The project ran from February 2020 to March 2023 and includes 9 partners from the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Smoke Free Partnership

World No Tobacco Day 2023: Tobacco agriculture in Europe continues to be subsidised, abuse migrant workers & contaminate ecosystems

In resonance with WHO's World No Tobacco Day 2023 theme of "We need food, not tobacco", SFP calls for transitioning away from tobacco farming.

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[#WorldNoTobaccoDay](#)

European Academy of Paediatrics

Repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on child and adolescent mental health: A matter of concern

[READ MORE](#)

European AIDS Treatment Group

EU Health Policy Platform Thematic Network: Targeting inequities in the face of HIV, TB and viral hepatitis in Europe – Joint Statement

[READ MORE](#)

European Cancer Organisation

Surprising Revelations on Cancer Care Inequalities in Europe: only 12 of the 27 EU Member States have an up-to-date national cancer control plan

[READ MORE](#)

Eurochild

Ukraine 2023: What are the challenges to uphold children's rights during the conflict?

Since the start of the conflict, children's rights have been negatively impacted at an enormous scale in all areas including basic human rights, displacement, alternative care, and right to education.

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Wemos

There has been increased interest in the use of blended finance in health care, but what are the risks and how to ensure access for all?

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Safe Food Advocacy Europe

Study: High salt intake could increase dementia & Alzheimer's disease risk

[READ MORE](#)



Mental Health Europe

Policy Recommendations: Paving the way to mentally healthy communities enabling everybody to thrive

[READ MORE](#)

Upcoming Events



AGE Platform Europe

A European model for sustainable working lives - AGE Annual Conference

7 June | 14:00 - 17:30
Brussels, Hybrid

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European Alcohol Policy Alliance

Is the EU facilitating an industrial epidemic?

27 June | 13:30 - 18:00
European Parliament

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European CanCer Organisation

Save the date: European Cancer Summit 2023

15 & 16 November
Brussels, Hybrid

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EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: [18941013532-08](#)

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