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!
This Month's Top Stories

1. **Academic development of medicines – a path to solving unmet medical needs**
   By the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

2. **What could change in the fight against medicine shortages in Europe?**
   By France Assos Santé

3. **Will transparency of R&D costs lead to more affordable medicines?**
   By the European Public Health Alliance

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.

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.

A tobacco-free Europe — EPHA’s evaluation of the legislative framework for tobacco control
MEPs and citizens agree: children should have access to healthy food in schools
Cleaner road transport requires an ambitious Euro 7 Emission Standards Policy

New alcohol labelling law in Ireland – an important step to ensure consumer’s rights
No child should experience poverty and social exclusion in a Social Europe
How to save hundreds of thousands of lives in Europe through Ambient Air Quality Directives

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.

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.*

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.

European Academy of Paediatrics

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

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

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

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.
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?

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

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

Upcoming Events

AGE Platform Europe
A European model for sustainable working lives - AGE Annual Conference
7 June | 14:00 - 17:30
Brussels, Hybrid

European Alcohol Policy Alliance
Is the EU facilitating an industrial epidemic?
27 June | 13:30 - 18:00
European Parliament

European CanCer Organisation
Save the date: European Cancer Summit 2023
15 & 16 November
Brussels, Hybrid

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