

Feature Stories



Presidency of the Council
Priorities of Lithuanian Presidency in the health sector



European Mutual Statute
European Commission receives 300 replies to the Consultation



EU-US
Council gives the green light to launch free-trade talks with the United States



European Affairs
Council adopts Conclusions on Social Investment

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Next Meeting and visit dates

10 July	Mutuals Working Group in Brussels
13 September	Education and e-learning Working Group in Brussels
16 September	EU Affairs Working Group In Brussels
17 September	Cross-border healthcare Workshop in Brussels
18-20 September	Conference on Challenges of Long-term care for Healthcare systems
27 September	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Working Group

Top Twitts

	AIM @AIM_Healthcare Some background to the Commission proposal of #Tobacco directive: @Europarl_EN Evaluation of EC Impact Assessment bit.ly/16KtckH Ouvrir	1 Jul
	AIM @AIM_Healthcare #Health spending continues to stagnate, says @OECD, enduring effects of #crisis, New OECD Health Data 2013, Info: bit.ly/1224vYg Ouvrir	1 Jul
	AIM @AIM_Healthcare Lithuanian Presidency Day 1, #health priorities are: #Tobacco, #clinicaltrials, #medicaldevices bit.ly/18q9xq1 @EU2013LT Ouvrir	1 Jul

AIM and you

➤ *AIM Activities in June*

AIM activities:

11 June: Disease Management Workshop

13-14 June: General Assembly and board Meetings

14 June: Fraud Working Group

Events AIM attended:

On 18 June AIM Secretariat was represented at FNMF Training on Data Protection.

On 1st July, AIM Secretariat attended the EU Affairs Working Group of FNMF (FR).

On 3rd July, AIM Secretariat attended the Annual Reception of Benenden (UK) at the Houses of Parliament.

AIM has the pleasure to welcome three new Members:



- [OEP](#), the National Hungarian Health Insurance Fund



- [VLK](#), the National Lithuanian Health Insurance Fund



- [CMCM](#), The Caisse Médico-Chirurgicale Mutualiste

European Institutions

➤ *European Council*

Irish Presidency: Overview of Irish Presidency

Ireland was the first EU presidency of the new trio (Ireland-Lithuania-Greece).

In the health sector, Ireland had many challenging priorities on its agenda with Transparency on reimbursement and pricing, Clinical Trials, Tobacco products directive and Medical Devices.

On Clinical trials after 10 meetings on clinical trials during its presidency, 93 articles have now had a first examination.

Tobacco directive negotiations also advanced at a rapid pace and in fact became the first priority of the Presidency right after the publication of the proposal on 19 December 2012. An agreement of a General Approach to the Directive was reached on 21st June. For more information on the progress of the presidency in the health sector, read this [article](#) and for an overview in all sectors, refer to the [summary](#) made by the Irish Presidency.

Lithuanian Presidency: Priorities of Lithuanian Presidency

The Lithuanian Presidency has started on the 1st July 2013. In the health sector, the Presidency will continue to focus on the priorities similar to the Irish Presidency, the Tobacco Products Directive, clinical trials on medicinal products and mediating the discussions on the Regulations on medical devices.

A special additional focus for the Lithuanian presidency will be sustainable health systems with a dedicated presidency conference in November in Vilnius. The next Council Meeting will be an informal meeting of health ministers on 8-9 July, and will include discussions on topics of prevention of youth smoking, mental health and aging, as well as long-term perspective of sustainable health systems and shaping of EU health policy after 2013.

For more information consult the [page](#) of the Lithuanian Presidency.

You can follow the Lithuanian Presidency on Twitter [@EU2013LT](#)



EU-US: Council gives the green light to launch free-trade talks with the United States

On 14 June 2013, EU trade ministers decided to mandate the Commission to negotiate an EU-US trade and investment pact.

The Council has adopted a mandate for the Commission to negotiate a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the United States, the "transatlantic trade and investment partnership" (TTIP). The Council therefore starts officially the negotiations after the US Parliament also gave its approval.

The mandate will focus on three areas: market access, regulatory issues and non-tariff barriers (such as differences in standards) and finally the rules under which the pact would operate. The Commission will negotiate on behalf of the EU and its member states, keeping the Trade Policy Committee and the European Parliament regularly informed and updated. Certainly however, latest information on snooping in the United States might have an impact on the speed of negotiations. More information is available on the [Council page](#) and this [Article](#) from Public Service Europe.

Social Investment: Council Conclusions on Social Investment

On 20 June, the Council underlined the relevance of social investment in dedicated Council Conclusions.

In the field of social protection, the Council called member states in its [conclusions](#) to implement social investment through integrated social policies, innovative funding and involvement of civil society.

The Council also invites the Commission to set up a knowledge bank on social investment approaches in order to improve the dissemination of knowledge and evidence from the social sector. The Social Protection Committee is called to assess the performance of social policies with the support of the European Commission. For more information, read the Council Conclusions and the EU Commission [Communication](#) on Social Investment for Growth.

➤ **European Commission**

Health Technology Assessment: Proposal of implementing act published on HTA Network

Implementing the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross border Healthcare, the Commission has adopted an implementing act setting up a Network of National authorities or bodies responsible for HTA.

The Implementing Act is setting out the necessary rules for the establishment, management and transparent functioning of the Network. The act precises for example that participants in the meetings of the HTA Network shall not be remunerated by the Commission. Another characteristic of the HTA Network will be the adoption of a strategic multiannual work programme.

Until now, the cooperation is conducted by the EUnetHTA consortium.

More details are given in the [Press Release](#) and in the [implementing act](#).

Social Economy: Political Agreement on New programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

The European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) with a proposed budget of €815 million for the 2014-20 period.

EaSI integrates and extends the coverage of three existing programmes: [Progress](#) (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity), [EURES](#) (European Employment Services) and the [European Progress Microfinance Facility](#). Out of them, the Progress programme will represent the biggest share of this budget with 61% of the total budget. Within the Microfinance Facility Programme, half of the dedicated budget, €85 million would be dedicated to support social entrepreneurship.

The EaSI is the fourth pillar of the EU Initiative for Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020. The political agreement should be endorsed by the European Parliament and Council before the end of 2013 to allow the launching of EaSI in January 2014. EaSI is designed to support Member States efforts in the design and implementation of employment and social reforms through policy coordination, the identification, analysis and sharing of best practices.

[website](#)

Enlargement: Croatia's accession to the European Union: Summary of EU changes

On 1 July, Croatia has become the 28th member state of the European Union. Ahead of this change, the HZZO the Croatian Health Insurance Fund had already joined AIM in June 2012.



Croatia is the first of ex-Yugoslav states to join the European Union successfully with a first application to join in 2003 and 6 years of negotiations with the EU.

In the field of healthcare this means among others that citizens can now use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which grants its holders access to public healthcare when medically necessary on the same terms as the host country's citizens. Some other rules of the European Union will be applied only after a transitional period: such will be the case for the freedom of workers with a period of 7 years for member states to adopt transitional arrangements on access of Croatian workers to their labour market.

On a purely institutional level, Croatia's entry in the EU means a new Commissioner Neven Nimica, Commissioner for Consumer rights, 12 additional seats in the European Parliament and 249 new officials in the European Commission.

© To find answers to the questions about the consequences of the accession, the Commission has elaborated a [Question & Answer](#). You may also find relevant information in the [MEMO](#) on institutional changes.

Active Ageing: EU Summit in Dublin and Rewarding ceremony of Healthy ageing reference sites

The European Innovation Partnership's latest activities are a summit in Dublin and the Ceremony of awards to the reference sites.

On 13- 14 June, a [Summit](#) was held in Dublin aiming to develop an 'Action Agenda for European Cities and Communities'. The summit was jointly organised by the Ageing Well Network and the Global Coalition on Ageing in association with the Irish Presidency. The summit showcased some of the best age-friendly innovations from across Europe and the globe.

Additionally 32 reference sites for health ageing have been rewarded on 1st July setting an example of what can be done in 12 different countries of the Union to improve healthy ageing. The list of initiatives goes from lower admission rates in Scotland to electronic health records in Galicia. You can find the whole list of initiatives summed up in this [informative guide](#).



© EU Commission

European Semester: Country Specific Recommendations

On 13 June, EU finance ministers endorsed the European Commission's budget and economy recommendations, submitted at the end of May. It will now be for the European Summit to put the finishing touches to the European Semester by inviting the member states to apply the Commission's recommendations, particularly for the drawing up of national budgets for 2014.

Two extra years have been granted to Spain (new deadline 2016), France (2015), Poland (2014) and Slovenia (2015) and one more year has been given to the Netherlands (2014) and Portugal (2015). Five countries (Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary and Romania) have had the excessive deficit proceedings against them lifted, but Malta, whose deficit is expected to reach 3.7% of GDP in 2013, again has had excessive deficit proceedings launched against it, requiring its deficit to be reduced to 2.7% of GDP in 2014. The Council put pressure on Belgium to reduce its deficit to 2.7% of GDP in 2013. Asked to make a structural effort of 1%, Brussels says it is prepared to take additional measures if needed. For further details read the Council [Press Release](#).

Data Protection: Progress stalled on Data Protection Regulation

The European Parliament and the European Council did not find compromise yet on the data protection regulation.

On 6-7 June, the Council of Justice and home affairs could not reach any agreements on Part I to IV. The Council notably three major states, France United Kingdom and Germany questioned the Presidency compromise, consequently no agreement has been reached so far on the first part of the text.

The proposal remains controversial in all institutions, and eight countries – Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Sweden, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom – would still rather have a directive than a regulation. States point to the difference of data protection regime in each member state. Opting for a directive would allow more flexibility in the implementation.

In the meantime in the European Parliament, no agreement has been reached on the Report of Rapporteur Albrecht either. In fact the deadline was now postponed for a third time to end September, beginning October.

For more information, Read the Council [Press Release](#) and this [article](#) summarising key discussions in the Council.

➤ **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**

Pharmacovigilance: Proposal for fees for pharmacovigilance payable to the European Medicines Agency adopted

On 26 June, the Commission adopted a legal proposal which would see pharmaceutical companies pay specific fees for Union-wide pharmacovigilance activities.

This takes into account recent legislation on pharmacovigilance applicable in the EU since July 2012. The new dispositions entail a significant increase of pharmacovigilance activities for EMA such as adverse event monitoring.

This is why the European Commission thinks companies should contribute to the funding for these additional activities. Pharmacovigilance activities' funding at EU level has remained entirely public until now.

For more information, read the EU [Press Release](#) and the [legal proposal](#) of the EU Commission.

➤ **Mutuals and Social Economy**

European Mutual Statute: Results of the Public consultation

Over 300 organisations replied to the Commission Consultation on the European Mutuals Statute.

The consultation from the European Commission on the European Mutual Statute took place from 11 March to 14 June 2013. The results received are very impressive with more than 300 replies from 12 countries, or ten times as many replies as the consultation in 2004. The Commission cannot ignore this strong signal from the citizens.

The European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry will publish the replies and its summary in the coming weeks. Commissioner Tajani is expected to speak about the European Mutual Statute at the Public Services Intergroup at the European Parliament on 10 July in Brussels together with Pedro Bleck Da Silva, Chairman of the Mutuals Working group at AIM.

Follow all news on the European Mutual Statute on Twitter under the Hashtag (Key word) **#EUMutualStatute**

Health and Long-term care

➤ Trends in health system

Tobacco: Tobacco promotion in Europe today

In parallel to the current revision of the Tobacco Products Directive, the European Region in the WHO warns against tobacco promotion in Europe

The new WHO Tobacco Control Database makes it possible to make comparisons between countries and clearly shows that tobacco promotion is creeping in through the back door in many countries.

This could slow progress in eliminating tobacco-related ill health, despite Member States in the WHO European Region having largely banned direct tobacco advertising and promotion, such as television and newspaper advertisements. Among the international community, Australia is frequently pointed out as a best example with legislation requiring tobacco companies to introduce plain packaging on their products.

Indeed, evidence shows that comprehensive advertising bans save lives by reducing the number of people starting and continuing to smoke. With 16% of all deaths in adults over 30 in the European Region due to tobacco, governments recognize the need for effective action.

For more information on this topic, refer to the related [WHO article](#).

➤ Call for proposals, Consultations

EU Commission, Call for tender concerning a pilot project for developing and implementing successful prevention strategies for type 2 diabetes

<http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:183903-2013:TEXT:EN:HTML>

➤ Studies, Videos

OECD: New Health Data 2013

<http://bit.ly/1224vYg>

OECD: A Good Life in Old Age? Monitoring and Improving Quality in Long-term Care

<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/good-life-in-old-age.htm>

Financial Times: Sustainable Healthcare Report

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/4ca1eaf4-d7a8-11e2-8279-00144feab7de.pdf>

Observatory of Health Systems: Lithuania Health Systems in Transition report includes policy responses as a result of the financial crisis

<http://goo.gl/ZxH5y>

EU Commission: Review of Public Health Capacity in EU

http://ec.europa.eu/health/social_determinants/docs/report_ph_capacity_2013_en.pdf

EU Commission: EU Employment and Social Situation

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1923&furtherNews=yes>

EUROPARTV: Video on Clinical Trials with MEP Rivasi

Video by MEP Rivasi for EUROPARTV on Clinical Trials (starting at 12min' 52)

<http://www.europartv.europa.eu/en/player.aspx?pid=9bd34b31-3ca4-4fdf-b0f2-a1e400f85dd1>

Science Daily: Tobacco Laws for Youth May Reduce Adult Smoking

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130613161727.htm>

Health events in Europe

- 9 July** **Launch of the WHO Report on Priority medicines for Europe and the World**
- 10 July** **Public Services Intergroup on the European Mutual Statute chaired by MEP Françoise Castex**
with the participation of AIM
- 17 Sept** **AIM Cross-Border Healthcare Workshop at MLOZ**
Brussels, MLOZ
- 18-20 Sept** **AIM International Conference on Evolution of health systems with long-term care with MGEN,**
Education and Solidarity Network and AEIP
Paris, [Information](#)
- 25-26 Sept** **HaCIRIC Building Future Healthcare - Radical Approaches**
London, [Information](#)
- 30 Sept- 4 Oct** **Week dedicated to Social Rights in the “EU Single Market Month” (EU Commission, DG MARKT)**
with the participation of AIM
- 9-11 November** **Mont Blanc Meetings**
“Changing the course of globalization through social and solidarity economy: Towards post 2015
Millennium Development Goals”
Chamonix, [Information](#)
- 19-20 November** **Lithuania’s Presidency Conference “Sustainable Health Systems for Sustainable Growth in**
Europe” Vilnius
- 28 November** **Argus de l’assurance : « Mutuelles, Avec quelle stratégie se préparer aux évolutions du**
marché», *With the participation of AIM President, Mr Huchet*
Paris, [Information](#)

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

