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From:	Presidency
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Subject:	AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 20 June 2025: Presidency conferences -Information from the Presidency

The health objective of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union has been to continue building the security of the European Union by defining health priorities aimed at:

1. Digital transformation of healthcare;
2. Mental health of children and adolescents in the context of the development of digital technologies;
3. Health promotion and disease prevention.

Below we present the most important conferences and high-level events organised by the Polish Presidency.

High-level conference “Together for Europe’s Health – Strategic Orientations and Actions for Public Health”, Warsaw, 16 January 2025

The inaugural high-level conference “*Together for Europe’s Health – Strategic Orientations and Actions for Public Health*” marked the start of the Polish Presidency in the area of health.

The conference focused on health prevention and the effectiveness of public health policies aimed at ensuring the health of the population and building sustainable health systems. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore innovative solutions, share best practices, and foster European collaboration in healthcare.

The conference brought together high-level officials, experts, and stakeholders to discuss key challenges and opportunities in promoting health, preventing diseases, addressing the mental health needs of children and young people, and advancing the digital transformation of healthcare systems.

During discussion panels the following topics were raised:

- Health promotion and disease prevention through interdisciplinary and multimodal education of children and youth – good practices and ideas for the future
- Effectiveness of public health programs – making effective political decisions
- Mental health of children and youth and digital hygiene, health awareness in the era of disinformation, fake news and lack of a sense of security.

In Warsaw on **17 January 2025** two another important conferences were held:

- **Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nursing Officers and Chief Dental Officers** – participants discussed the challenges of medical training in Europe e.g. nurses and midwives, education of doctors and the role of the paediatric dentist in improving oral health. WHO and DG SANTE presented the European Nursing Action 2024-2027 plan, and Poland announced its accession to the project;
- conference **"Towards a cancer-free Europe: strengthening cancer prevention strategies"**
 - the event was a call for joint action for primary cancer prevention, health education and building a healthier future in Poland and Europe. The meeting, organised by the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, was dedicated to strengthening preventive action in the fight against cancer in Europe. During the event experts, scientists and decision-makers discussed the latest strategies for prevention, health promotion, exposure to modifiable risk factors and health education.

Conference „European Health Data and Innovation Summit”, Warsaw, 30 January 2025

The event brought together experts from the public and private sectors and European institutions. Key topics included the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation and innovations in healthcare. It was a hybrid event focused on the future of healthcare, particularly the use of health data and innovative technologies.

High level conference “Critical Medicines for Health Security – current challenges and the way forward”, Brussels, 19 February 2025

The event brought together health ministers, representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as experts from the pharmaceutical industry and patient organisations.

Participants discussed issues related to problems with access to critical medicines and challenges related to financing the production of medicines in Europe.

The experts exchanged views and experiences, discussing possible remedies and ways to increase the EU's resilience in the face of health crises and military threats. They analysed the current access to critical medicines in Europe, identifying the main causes of shortages and potential solutions.

The discussions also covered legal and financial measures that could support the pharmaceutical industry in ensuring the stable production of critical medicines in Europe. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring their availability in countries at risk of war.

Conference “Unmet needs in cardiovascular health across Europe – current status, challenges and solutions”, Warsaw, 25 February 2025

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Polish Cardiac Society. The conference focused on health prevention, new diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities, e-health, national cardiology plans and perspectives, and solutions aimed at ensuring population health and building sustainable healthcare systems. The meeting was an opportunity to explore innovative solutions, share best practices and strengthen European cooperation in the field of healthcare for cardiovascular diseases.

High level conference „European Health Data Space – unlocking Europe’s health data future together”, Brussels, 18 March 2025

European Commission was the co-organizer of this conference. The main objective of the conference was to discuss the implementation of the European Health Data Space Regulation. The conference was organised to celebrate the adoption of the regulation. During the conference it was emphasized that the EHDS establishes the first unified health-specific environment for the use and exchange of data across the EU, enabling specific data to feed into research purposes for the benefit of all European citizens.

Conference “Promoting and Protecting the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in the Digital Era”, Cracow, 7 April 2025

This conference focused on mental health of children and adolescents, especially in the context of the digital era. This is a critical issue that requires immediate and coordinated action. It is essential to ensure the future resilience and prosperity of our societies. Promoting and protecting mental health is crucial for the overall safety and security of our communities.

The conference aimed to bring together experts from various fields to exchange experiences and best practices, discuss the latest research findings, and explore effective strategies for supporting young people's mental well-being in a rapidly changing digital world.

Intersectoral event "Health security – challenges, innovation, future", Cracow, 8 April 2025

The conference focused on one of the key priorities of the Polish Presidency which is health security. The aim of the meeting was to explore the impact of current global threats on public health. The event provided an opportunity to share best practices aimed at preparing society for crises, improve civil-military cooperation, and build a resilient healthcare system.

The conference brought together high-level officials, experts, and stakeholders to discuss key challenges and opportunities in advancing the digital transformation of healthcare system, improving access to medicines and healthcare personnel, and ensuring psychological support for children and young people.

The meeting provided an invaluable platform for exchanging views and experiences, ultimately leading to more effective solutions in these critical areas.

Conference "Towards an EU action plan on rare diseases", Warsaw, 10-11 April 2025

This conference was built on the previous presidency conferences on rare diseases, including those held in Spain, Belgium and Hungary, which have all advocated for a comprehensive European approach that addresses the needs of people living with rare diseases. It also built on joint conclusions and recommendations from European institutions, civil society and patient organisations on a European strategy for rare diseases.

This conference was intended as a key step towards developing an effective and comprehensive European strategy on rare diseases, and focused on the key elements to be included in a European action plan for patients with rare diseases. The aim was to strengthen cooperation among Member States and stimulate new actions on rare diseases at both European and national levels. The conference presented best practices and innovative solutions and explored the potential of research and digital technologies to improve diagnosis times and treatment options for rare disease patients.

Conference “Progress in the realization of SDG 3.3 and other challenges in support of the EU MS/EEA in their progress in achieving (ECDC)”, Warsaw, 23-24 April 2025

Experts from European Union and European Economic Area countries discussed progress in the efforts to eradicate HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases. This meeting was attended by key experts involved in the prevention and control of these diseases.

Conference “Development of cross-border e-health services from the EU citizen's perspective – opportunities and challenges”, Warsaw, 12 May 2025

The event was attended by representatives of European institutions, national policymakers, experts from the healthcare sector, patient organizations, and industry leaders. The meeting served as a platform for discussion and exchange of insights on the future of cross-border e-health services and the use of health data in Europe.

1st European Summit of Cancer Prevention and Control, Warsaw, 27 May 2025

The conference was organized by the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Institute of Oncology and the Ministry of Health. During the conference, a discussion was held on the strategy of oncological prevention in Europe. The conference was attended by representatives of Polish and international scientific institutions and agencies involved in the fight against cancer.