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Subject: AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 16 June 2026: Presidency conferences
- Information from the Presidency

Within its vision, under the central message “An Autonomous Union. Open to the World.”, the Cyprus Presidency focused on advancing a resilient and autonomous EU Health Union in response to current health challenges. This vision seeks to ensure that all citizens have uninterrupted access to medicines, health technologies, and high-quality healthcare services, irrespective of emergencies or external crises, thereby upholding the principle of leaving no one behind.

In line with this, the Presidency prioritised mental health and inclusiveness, the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS), including AI solutions, and the introduction of a European Centre for Clinical Excellence for pharmaceuticals. These priorities were further promoted through the organisation of various conferences and meetings, the main events of which are described below:

1. High-Level Conference on Mental Health and Inclusiveness, Lefkosia (Nicosia)
27 January 2026

The High-Level Conference on Mental Health and Inclusiveness aimed to strengthen European cooperation in mental health and contribute to the development of inclusive and resilient mental health systems through a comprehensive, people-centred and inclusive approach to policymaking across the European Union. It focused on key priorities such as prevention, early intervention, stigma reduction, equitable access to quality services, the responsible use of digitalisation and eHealth and the active involvement of young people and individuals with lived experience across the mental health continuum, from promotion and prevention to treatment, recovery and social reintegration. The conference also fostered the exchange of good practices and promoted stronger cross-sectoral cooperation among Member States, European institutions, international organisations, academia and civil society.

The conference brought together high-level representatives from EU Member States, the European Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO), academic institutions, NGOs, social partners, patient and carers' associations, youth organisations and other European organisations active in the fields of mental health and public health. Discussions highlighted that good mental health is essential for well-being, social participation, productivity and economic stability throughout all stages of life. Participants stressed the need to move from dialogue to concrete action, with particular emphasis on prevention, reducing stigma, timely access to quality services, community-based care, social reintegration and youth engagement in mental health promotion. Special attention was also given to the increasing pressures faced by young people, including social media, academic demands and broader societal challenges, underlining the importance of resilience-building and youth-friendly services.

The conference also showcased successful national experiences, reaffirming the shared European commitment to strengthening mental health support, inclusion and cooperation.

Its outcomes strongly supported the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency, particularly the priority of promoting “An Autonomous Union of Values that Leaves No One Behind”, by highlighting mental health and inclusiveness as key pillars of social cohesion and sustainable development. Discussions further underscored the importance of inclusive, community-based and patient-centred services, enhanced stakeholder cooperation and a coordinated European approach, with particular emphasis on the mental well-being and active participation of young people.

2. Informal Meeting of Ministers of Health, Lefkosia (Nicosia), 25-26 February 2026

The Informal Meeting of EU Health Ministers enabled a substantive and forward-looking exchange of views structured around three strategic pillars: the development of a European Centre of Clinical Excellence for Pharmaceuticals, the strengthening of a youth-focused and inclusive mental health agenda and the effective implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS).

Ministers highlighted the need to enhance EU-level scientific coordination in clinical evaluations, recognising that the proposed European Centre of Clinical Excellence for Pharmaceuticals should complement existing EU and national structures while fully respecting national competences. They underlined the importance of ensuring transparency, methodological consistency and reduced duplication among national authorities and identified the need for further technical consultations to clarify the Centre's governance and mandate.

There was strong support for inclusive, community-based mental health policies, with particular emphasis on youth mental health, early intervention, digital literacy and resilience-building.

Ministers acknowledged the need to address existing inequalities and to strengthen cooperation across health, education and social sectors, while promoting enhanced EU-level collaboration through the exchange of best practices and benchmarking.

Ministers also confirmed the transformative potential of interoperable health data systems, recognising the European Health Data Space (EHDS) as a key enabler for innovation, research, and trustworthy artificial intelligence in healthcare. At the same time, they identified implementation challenges, including financing, infrastructure gaps and shortages of specialised expertise and expressed support for stronger EU coordination, technical assistance and capacity-building to ensure effective implementation.

Overall, the Meeting reinforced a coordinated European approach based on cooperation, evidence-based policymaking and sustainable healthcare development across the Union.

3. Competent Authorities of Medical Devices (CAMD) Meeting, Larnaka, 16-17 April 2026

The meeting aimed to facilitate the exchange of views and coordination of actions among the competent authorities of the European Union in order to strengthen cooperation and address common regulatory challenges in the field of medical devices.

It brought together representatives from EU Member States, countries of the European Economic Area and the European Commission to discuss key developments and priorities related to the implementation of the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) and the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR).

Discussions contributed to the further alignment of regulatory practices and supported progress in the implementation of the MDR and IVDR frameworks. Important advances were achieved through the extension of joint market surveillance actions and the launch of new initiatives aimed at supporting innovation, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants also addressed emerging challenges related to medical device software, in-house diagnostics and artificial intelligence, underlining the need for enhanced expertise, closer coordination and modern, proportionate regulatory approaches to ensure high standards of patient safety and effective market oversight.

The outcomes of the meeting were closely aligned with the priorities, particularly regarding the promotion of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence, the strengthening of market surveillance, the support for innovation and SMEs and the enhancement of a resilient, effective and future-oriented regulatory framework for medical devices.

4. Conference on "Building a Robust and Secure AI-Enabled Connected Health Data Space for Stronger European Health Union", Subtitle: Delivering Better Care, Advancing Research, and Strengthening Health Systems through Trusted Health Data and Responsible AI, Limassol, 29-30 April 2026

The conference, organised by the National eHealth Authority of Cyprus in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, addressed the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. It focused on the secure and interoperable exchange of health data, trustworthy AI applications, cross-border digital health services and the use of health data for research, innovation and evidence-based policymaking.

The event brought together policymakers, researchers, healthcare providers, patient organisations, startups, SMEs, academia, and industry representatives from 18 EU Member States, including a large number of speakers, as well as significant online participation and a substantial number of livestream views.

Discussions highlighted the importance of closer European cooperation in building resilient and digitally connected health systems. Particular emphasis was placed on interoperability, cybersecurity, innovation, patient empowerment, and the need to ensure alignment between the EHDS Regulation and the EU AI Act. Participants also stressed the value of practical collaboration among policymakers, healthcare providers, researchers and technology stakeholders in advancing secure, effective and patient-centred digital healthcare solutions.

The conference outcomes strongly supported the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency by reinforcing the commitment to a trusted European Health Union, strengthening cross-border cooperation and interoperability, promoting responsible AI innovation and supporting resilient, inclusive, sustainable and digitally connected healthcare systems across all Member States.

5. Joint Chief Medical, Nursing and Dental Officers Meeting, 20-21 May 2026, Pafos

The Joint Meeting of Chief Medical, Chief Nursing and Chief Dental Officers, focused on policy approaches to promote and protect the health and well-being of children and adolescents through a multidisciplinary and prevention-oriented approach.

The meeting brought together Chief Medical, Nursing and Dental Officers from EU Member States, senior health policymakers, academics, healthcare professionals, youth representatives and organisations including the European Commission, WHO, UNICEF and EFN, as well as delegates from EU Member States and Israel.

Discussions addressed key public health priorities, including adolescent health, mental health resilience, oral health prevention, pandemic preparedness, One Health surveillance, environmental and climate-related risks, behavioural insights for vaccine confidence and the role of digital innovation and artificial intelligence in preparedness and response. They also strengthened European cooperation on children's and adolescents' health, highlighting the importance of prevention-oriented and integrated policies, early intervention, youth engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and resilient and inclusive health systems. Participants underlined the value of behavioural insights, One Health approaches, and cross-sector coordination in enhancing public health policies and preparedness across Europe, while promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices among EU Member States and international organisations.

The Joint Meeting strongly supported the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency while reinforcing the need for stronger joint European efforts, coordinated action and inclusive policies in line with the vision for a resilient European Health Union.

6. Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) Meeting, 27 May 2026, Pafos

The HMA meeting brought together Heads and officials from Medicines Agencies (human and veterinary), the European Commission, and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and focused on ongoing regulatory and policy developments in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. Updates were presented by the EMA and the Commission, highlighting significant progress achieved under the Cyprus Presidency, in particular the technical completion of the Pharmaceutical Package and the successful conclusion of trilogue negotiations on the Critical Medicines Act.

The Trio Theme “Megatrends” HMA Concept Paper, developed through the cooperation of Poland, Denmark, and Cyprus, was officially endorsed to inform future EMANS.

Additional topics included the EU NTC Strategy Roadmap, updates from the Inspectors Working Group and the Working Group of Communication Professionals, as well as ESUAvet surveillance activities. Cyprus Veterinary Services presented information regarding antimicrobial overuse in livestock production, while FAST-EU was introduced as a pilot programme supporting clinical trials across Europe. The meeting was held jointly with EMACOLEX

During the closing remarks, it was noted that the proposal for Developing a European Centre of Clinical Excellence had led to the issue of an opinion by the European Economic and Social Committee, with the expectation that it will contribute to the harmonisation of treatment protocols across Europe.

The outcomes of the meeting reflected key achievements in the area of pharmaceuticals, all of which contribute to strengthening and harmonising the European regulatory framework to the benefit of EU citizens.

7. Mosquito Borne Diseases Conference, Nicosia, 9-10 June 2026

The Conference focused on strengthening European preparedness, prevention, and response capacities against vector-borne diseases, particularly Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika and West Nile virus.

Discussions addressed the evolving epidemiology of mosquito-borne diseases in Europe, the impact of climate and environmental change, mosquito surveillance and control strategies, preparedness for medical countermeasures, risk communication and predictive modelling. Particular emphasis was placed on integrated approaches, including One Health surveillance, sustainable vector control, climate-sensitive approaches and cross-border cooperation.

The Conference brought together representatives from EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), DG SANTE, DG HERA, academia and international organisations. It highlighted the growing public health threat posed by mosquito-borne diseases and reinforced the need for coordinated European action. Discussions focused on strengthening surveillance and early warning systems, preparedness and response capacities, vector control measures, risk communication, sustainable prevention strategies and cross-border cooperation at EU level.

The outcomes of the Conference highlighted the importance of preparedness, resilience, and cooperation in addressing emerging cross-border health threats, with a strong focus on surveillance, medical countermeasures and One Health approaches.