

Feature Stories



Horizon 2020

Research programme, Horizon 2020 was adopted in the European Parliament's Plenary



TTIP

Second round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks



Lithuanian Presidency

Outcome of the Lithuanian Presidency Conference on Sustainable Health Systems



Data Protection

Data Protection likely to be delayed by 2014 after Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting

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Next Meeting and visit dates

16-17 January	Social Entrepreneurs Conference <i>In Strasbourg</i>
20 January	EU Affairs WG <i>At AIM offices</i>
7 February	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices WG <i>At AIM offices</i>
12 March	Fraud WG <i>At AIM offices</i>
30 April	Internal Audit Committee <i>At AIM offices</i>

Top Twitts



AIM @AIM_Healthcare 20 Nov

@AIM_Healthcare present at #healthforumLT with Rolf Stadié from Knappschaft bit.ly/18lwZJY @EU2013LT



AIM @AIM_Healthcare 20 Nov

@EU_Health New Guidelines to enable sharing of basic #health information for a #patient across borders #eHealth bit.ly/17M0qvG



AIM @AIM_Healthcare 1 h

#AIM President Jean-Philippe Huchet is addressing the #EUMutualStatute at Conference today by @argusassurance, Info: bit.ly/1cP8tdZ

➤ *AIM Activities*

AIM Meetings:

20 November: Internal Audit Committee

21 November: Mutuals Working Group

29 November: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Working Group

4 - 6 December: AIM General Meetings

Events AIM attended:

On 15 November AIM Secretariat attended the Stakeholder Meeting on Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership.

On 18-19 November, AIM Secretariat attended the Home Sweet Home User Advisory Board in Dundalk (IE). *For more information, read the [dedicated article](#).*

On 19-20 November, Rolf Stadié, Chair of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices represented AIM at the Lithuanian Presidency Conference on “Sustainable Health Systems”. *For more information, read the [dedicated article](#).*

On 28 November, AIM Secretariat attended the ARGUS Conference in Paris. *For more information, read the [dedicated article](#).*

European Institutions

➤ *Council of Ministers*

Tobacco: Debates over e-cigarettes are going on at Council level

E-cigarettes and their regulation as medicines or tobacco are still the key point in focus in Council negotiations.

While the Commission initially proposed to regulate e-cigarettes as medicinal products, the plenary of the European Parliament led by the ALDE group rejected this proposal claiming it would put additional constraints on the sale of e-cigarettes which potentially cause less harm to smokers.

However health ministers in the Council worry of the possibility of encouraging a new market for nicotine and continue to ask for a regulation as medicines. In preparation of next week's negotiations, the Commission proposed unofficially to introduce a number of restrictions to e-cigarettes: for example a ban of e-cigs with nicotine levels of above 20 mg per ml of vapour and a ban of e-cigarettes tasting like tobacco.

The Lithuanian Presidency wishes to find an agreement on this point before the end of December. For more information, you can look up the [Article](#) of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council.



➤ *European Commission*

Chronic Diseases: Reflection process on chronic diseases - Final report

The latest state-of-play on the reflection process on chronic diseases has been published this month by the European Commission. DG SANCO also announces a European Summit in spring next year on chronic diseases.

The reflection process on chronic diseases brought together the Member States and the Commission to coordinate efforts to respond to the challenges of chronic diseases. The final report has now been published on 11 November. It sums up EU action and recommendations on prevention, good practice, data collection and EU funds among others. The document also announces an EU Summit on Chronic Diseases early 2014.

The Report announces following new actions such as the establishment of a European health information Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), an EU Study on Empowering patients in the management of chronic diseases for Summer 2014.

More details can be found in the [Final Report](#).

EU Health Programme: Union's Health programme to reduce health inequalities and promote innovation in health

On 13 November an agreement was found on the Public Health Programme (2014-2020) between the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency, the Parliament and the Commission.

The total budget will be €449.4 million over the seven year period. This amount includes grants that may be awarded to fund health systems, healthcare technological innovation and cross-sectoral schemes. The EU funding must be co-financed by the health authorities of member states.

See the [Press Release](#) by the Lithuanian Presidency and the [article](#) by European Voice.

TTIP: Negotiators met for the second round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks

Following the first round of negotiations in July, the second round of negotiations have now to be held in November.

The Commission has indicated in its conclusions that this second round included detailed talks about enhancing the regulatory compatibility of medical devices.

In general, spying of European government leaders and data protection have dominated the debate during this 2nd round of negotiations in view of the recent PRISM scandals. On this point the European Commission refuses so far to include data protection in the TTIP negotiations. The exclusion of data protection from TTIP talks would enhance the protection of Europeans' personal data and particularly of their health data.

The third round of negotiations is expected to be held in 16 – 20 December 2013 in Washington DC.

A study to be published in spring 2014 is in preparation in the Parliament addressing its role in the regulatory cooperation in TTIP. More information is available in the [Conclusions](#) of the European Commission.

➤ **European Parliament**

Horizon 2020: research programme adopted in Plenary: more support for small firms and new players

The European Parliament and the Council of Ministers have approved in plenary "Horizon 2020", the funding programme for research and innovation for the 2014-2020 period.

The budget of the research programme will increase by 30% to a total of €80 billion compared to the former research programme FP7. The Horizon 2020 programme will include three pillars: Societal challenges (including health), excellent science and industrial leadership. The Council of Ministers also approved the new Programme on 3rd December. The first calls for proposals should take place on 11 December.

More information on funding changes can best be found with [National Contact Points](#).

For more information, you can read the Parliament's [Press Release](#) on the Adoption of Horizon 2020.



European Commission © 2013

➤ **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**

HTA: First Meeting of the HTA network

The HTA network set up as provided in the Cross-border healthcare directive held its first meeting on 16 October.

The meeting gathered for the first time the HTA network including the HTA state authorities and the stakeholders. During the meeting chaired by the Commission and in presence of stakeholders including AIM, state authorities agreed that EU cooperation on HTA should go beyond pharmaceuticals and medical devices to include complex interventions. A full overview of the debates is available in the [minutes](#).

The meeting has also been the occasion to adopt the [Multi-annual work programme](#) of the HTA network. The multi-annual work programme announces the adoption of a position paper on long term provisions of EU cooperation on HTA, of a reflection paper on the conditions to facilitate take up and re-use at national level of joint HTA production and finally of a reflection paper on the interaction between regulatory and HTA issues.

HTA: EMA-HTA Scientific Workshop

The European Medicines Agency - EMA, organised an HTA workshop on parallel scientific advice on 26 November concluding that guidance should be developed and published for consultation in 2014.

The workshop aimed to address the situation when drugs are approved based on EMA's scientific opinion but are finally not reimbursed because they do not meet the requirements of HTA bodies. In conclusion on this workshop, EMA highlighted a clear need to initiate early dialogue between medicines developers, the EMA and HTA bodies to

discuss and agree on a development plan that generates data that both parties can use to determine a medicine's benefit-risk balance and value.

Following the workshop, and based on the experience gained by all stakeholders, guidance for EMA-HTA parallel scientific advice will be developed and published for public consultation in early 2014. The guidance will detail the timelines and actions whereby applicants can seek simultaneous feedback from regulators and HTA bodies on their development plans. The final guidance will take into account feedback from all stakeholders.

For more information, you can read the article available on the EMA [website](#).

➤ **European Affairs**

Data Protection: Final Report of LIBE Committee on Data Protection has been published

End of November the LIBE Committee finally published the report as it was adopted end of October in the Committee. The main Committee, LIBE Committee, managed to find an agreement on Data Protection end of October.

The final [Report](#) of the Committee has also been published end of November.

In the Council, the discussions are progressing, but with strong uncertainty on the possibility to achieve an agreement before the elections of May 2014. At the latest meeting on 6 December of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, Commissioner Reding accused some states to 'hibernate' and to deliberately delay the proposal. The main controversial issue was the so-called one-stop shop principle for Data Protection Authorities, considered a central pillar of the proposal. The Lithuanian Justice Minister declared: "*We prefer a strong agreement to a fast one, and must work to ensure a proper balance between business interests and fundamental rights of citizens*".

More details about the latest debates at council level can be found in this [article](#) by EU Observer and the [press release](#) of the Council. Even so, Rapporteur Albrecht had decided whether negotiations are successful or not that a vote in Plenary should take place in April 2014.

Lithuanian Presidency Conference: The Lithuanian Conference gives rise to a Vilnius Declaration on "Sustainable Health systems"

On 19 and 20 November, the Lithuanian Presidency organised the Conference in Vilnius on the Health Forum "Sustainable Health Systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe".

Mr Rolf Stadié represented AIM as Chair of the AIM Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices working group in the Panel "Effective innovation for sustainable growth". He insisted in his presentation on the necessity for medical products to have a proven added therapeutic value.

Commissioner for health Tonio Borg who spoke at the conference insisted in his [Speech](#) to provide health systems with sustainable funding, on solidarity and also transparency of prices, patient information and skills mix in health workforce. The outcome of the Conference is the [Vilnius Declaration](#) signed by four organisations: the European Patients' Forum, EPF, the European Public Health Alliance, EPHA, the World Health Organisation, WHO and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, EFPIA. The Vilnius Declaration calls on Member states and the EU to:

- Increase investment in health promotion and disease prevention ensure universal access to high quality people-centred health services
- Ensure universal access to high quality people-centred health services
- Ensure that health system reforms including workforce planning are evidence-based and focus on cost-effectiveness, sustainability and good governance

For more information please refer to the [Joint press Release](#).



Lithuanian Presidency © 2013

Home Sweet Home: AIM visited the Long-term care EU Project in Dundalk - Ireland



On 18-19 November, AIM took part in a visit of the Advisory Board on the project in Dundalk, Ireland.

AIM is currently part of the Advisory Board of the Project Home Sweet Home, which aims at improving the quality of life of elderly people by extending their independent life through the use of measurement of daily status and a contact centre as well as sensors.

The visit of the project in Dundalk aimed at identifying the barriers and achievements of the project

with Irish partners as well as to think about the end of the project and its further deployment. For more information, visit the [website](#) of the project.

➤ **Mutuals and Social Economy**

Social Economy: 6th Mont Blanc Meetings discussed “Changing the course of globalization with the social and solidarity economy”

From 9 to 11 November 2013, this International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs took place in Chamonix, France.



The “Mont-Blanc Meetings” are bringing together social and solidarity economy entrepreneurs from every continent to enhance the social economy’s international profile and recognition since 2004.

Dra. Ana Maria Silva from AIM’s Portuguese member UMP represented AIM at the Meeting and addressed the European Mutual Statute as well as AIM’s vision on social economy (see picture). These 6th Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) have worked on the following theme:

“Changing the course of globalization with the social and solidarity economy: Towards post-

2015 Millennium Development Goals”, under the high patronage of the French President Francois Hollande.

The full declaration of the Rencontres du Mont Blanc where AIM is mentioned is available [here](#).

ISSA: "Mutual benefit societies: A tool for developing social protection worldwide, particularly in the health sector"

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) released a report on mutual benefit societies. Some of AIM members, who are also members of ISSA have contributed to the report such as: the Mutualité Française, MSA, Solidaris, Benenden, and MGEN.



This report tends to demonstrate that mutuals participate in the development of social protection, in collaboration with public system, sharing the same values, etc. Its content is an acknowledgement of mutuals’ role in the healthcare sector. The report is available on request.

European Mutual Statute: AIM reminds the importance of adopting a European Mutual Statute at the ARGUS Conference

On 28 November the French Insurance Publication Argus organised an event on Market evolutions for mutuals with the participation of the AIM President, Jean-Philippe Huchet.

The AIM President addressed the necessity for mutuals in the European Union to have a statute and analysed recent developments in the European institutions about this point. MEP Pervenche Bérès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee was also presenting the position of the European Parliament on this topic: the European Parliament has been very supportive of the European Mutual Statute calling for a statute through a written declaration and a European Parliament study. The second part of the event addressed the constraints of the market on mutuals’ with a special focus on governance and on the impact of solvency 2.

For more information, you can refer to the [webpage](#) on the event.

Health and Long-term care

➤ **Trends in health system**

OECD: Report establishes enduring impact of crisis on health expenditure

The New OECD report gives more figures about the impact of the crisis on the health sector
Over the period 2009-2011, health spending per capita fell in one out of three OECD countries, with those hardest hit by the crisis most affected, says the OECD Report [Health at a Glance 2013](#). This is in sharp contrast to the strong growth in health spending during the years 2000-2008, prior to the crisis.

For more information, please visit the [OECD website](#), where you can also find the lessons of the Report drawn by some of the countries in their Press Releases.



➤ **Call for proposals, Consultations**

Public consultation on patient safety and quality of care

04.12.2013 - 28.02.2013

http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/consultations/patient_safety_quality_care_cons2013_en.htm

Public consultation on VAT legislation on public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest

14.10.2013 - 14.02.2014

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/tax/2013_vat_public_bodies_en.htm

➤ *Studies, Videos*

EU Health Observatory, New website Health and Finance Crisis Monitor

<http://www.hfcm.eu/>

EU Health Observatory, New Website: Health Systems and Policy Monitor

<http://www.hspm.org/mainpage.aspx>

Investing in Health Infograph

27.11.2013

http://ec.europa.eu/health/strategy/docs/investing_in_health_infograph_en.pdf



Video by European Parliament on Pensions

28.11.2013

http://europartv.europa.eu/fr/player.aspx?pid=4c9ea7b7-3bb1-4b86-8b27-a283013ea82b&utm_source=hootsuite&utm_campaign=hootsuite

Extract of the Investing in Health Infograph, 2013, EU Commission ©

Patient Power: Lessons from the best healthcare systems in Europe

New Europe

28.11.2013

<http://newdirectionfoundation.org/content/patient-power-lessons-best-healthcare-systems-europe>

Social protection EU28 spent 29.1% of GDP on social protection in 2011 Highest ratios in Denmark, France and the Netherlands

21.11.2013

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-174_en.pdf

New book explores innovative strategies being deployed against cancer in Europe

European Partnership against Cancer (Slovenian Ministry of Health, WHO, European Commission)

28.11.2013

<http://goo.gl/49dLnf>

Cross-border hospital collaboration in border regions - mechanisms and motivations

EU Health Observatory

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/partners/observatory/news/news/2013/11/cross-border-hospital-collaboration-in-border-regions-mechanisms-and-motivations>

WHO, Research for universal health coverage

World health report 2013

<http://www.who.int/whr/2013/report/en/index.html>

Health events in Europe

2-3 December	EHTEL Symposium ‘Sustainable Partnerships for Wellbeing and e-health’ Brussels, Information
10 December	EPSCO Council Brussels
11 December	DG Sanco Joint Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance: State of Play of the 5-year action plan Brussels, Information
16-17 January	DG Markt Conference ‘Social Entrepreneurs Have your Say’ Strasbourg, Information
23 January	DG Sanco Conference “Addressing health inequalities 2014 and beyond: building cohesion and strengthening health for growth”, Information
March 2014	Greek Presidency Nutrition and physical activity Conference Greece
28-29 April 2014	Informal Meeting of Health ministers
May 2014	World Health Assembly
20 June	EPSCO Health Council Brussels

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Realisation & Layout: Blandine Cassou-Mounat

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

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