

Featured Stories



European Mutual Statute

European Parliament adopted report on European Mutual Statute



Data Protection

Consideration of Amendments in main Committee



Pricing of Medicinal Products

Amended Commission proposal



Medical Devices

Socialists and Democrats' Workshop on Medical Devices

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Next Meeting and visit dates

10 April	Mutuals Working Group at AIM Offices
21 May	EU Affairs Working group at AIM Offices
29 May	Health System Reform Study Trip in Lisbon (Montepio)
31 May	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Working Group
13-14 June	General Assembly and board Meetings in Gent
14 June	Fraud Working Group in Gent

Visit the new AIM Website:



www.aim-mutual.org

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➤ *AIM Activities in March*

AIM activities:

6 March: Fraud Working Group

12-13 March: AIM e-health study trip

13 March: AIM Cocktail on the occasion of the vote of the European Mutual Statute Report in Strasbourg

18 March: European Affairs Working group

22 March: Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices Working group

25-26 March: Presidium in Zeist

Events AIM attended:

On 19 March, AIM attended the S&D Workshop on medical devices at the European Parliament

➤ *Members' news*

ZN welcomed AIM Presidium on 25 and 26 March.

European Institutions

➤ *European Commission and Council*

Data Protection: Debate in LIBE Committee, JURI Opinion adopted and discussions in the Council

In the LIBE Committee, MEP Albrecht announced the vote will take place on 29-30 May in the LIBE Committee to leave time to all MEPs to analyse the around 3000 Amendments. The rapporteur reminded that this process is only a revision and that today's debate is deeply grounded in the 1995 directive.

On the day before on 19 March, the latest opinion to be adopted on Data protection was voted in the JURI Committee.

The committee expressed the results of the vote in a press release highlighting the debates on the "right to be forgotten" and a support to the Commission requirement for explicit consent before a person's data is collected.

Legal affairs specialists in Parliament support the "right to be forgotten" as proposed by the Commission in its draft data protection regulation. This would oblige companies, such as social networks or online shops, to delete personal data on request. For more information see the [Press Release](#).

However, the committee says in its non-binding opinion that this right should not apply to data processed for healthcare purposes. They believe that is important to retain complete health records in order to ensure the best care and treatment.

In the Council on 8 March the main discussions were about the obligation to engage in prior consultation with the supervisory authority based on a risk assessment and the obligation to have a data protection officer.

Learn more about the position of other stakeholders on data protection in this [article](#) of the EU Observer.

Transparency: The Commission publishes amended proposal on transparency of pricing and reimbursement

On 18 March, the Commission adopted an [amended proposal](#) on the transparency of measures regulating prices of medicines. The amended proposal includes various points of the Report of MEP ravanova (ALDE, HU) such as:

- The deadlines for pricing and reimbursement decisions of the European Parliament (180 days for drugs and 60 days for Generics) and a "stop-the-clock-system"
- The deletion of the award of damages and daily penalties
- The access of competent authorities to the data of the authorization procedure
- The possibility to assess relative efficacy in article 13
- Contractual agreements are excluded from the scope of the directive

For more information on the Transparency directive, consult the Commission [page](#).

Social Investment: “Investing in Health”: Health spending is 'growth friendly' expenditure

Based on the social investment package, the “Investing in health” brochure follows and sums up the Staff working document (SWD).

The new [brochure](#) of DG Health and Consumers sums up why investing in health is interesting is important and reaffirms key principles to better invest in health. The brochure therefore focuses on sustainable health systems, human capital and health inequalities.

The study also summarises in a clear fashion EU health initiatives (See picture).

The brochure illustrates the key message of social investment package on health: “*health expenditure is growth-friendly expenditure*”. Read the full [Investing in Health](#) SWD.



Active Ageing: Introducing Active Ageing Index

A new Active Ageing Index (AAI) has been launched online by the European Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) aiming to enhance the availability of this new statistical tool to all its potential users. The index measures the extent to which older people can realise their full based on 4 main domains: employment, participation in society, independent living and ageing environment.

The four first countries bets rated according to this index are Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. See the article on the Commission’s [website](#) or in the [Policy brief](#).

Mental Health: Launch of the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-Being

The new Joint Action, funded under the EU Health Programme, will be running from 1 February 2013 till January 2016 and coordinated by Universidade Nova de Lisboa in Portugal. The joint action will address: The promotion of mental health at the work place and in schools; Promoting action against depression and suicide; Developing community mental health care and Promoting the integration of mental health in all policies.

The expected result is a more rigorous and comprehensive knowledge on of mental health and well-being situation in the EU and the development of an endorsed framework for action.

More information on this [website](#)

Environment: MEPs call for better protection from hormone-affecting chemicals

The resolution calling for a reduction in exposure to these chemicals was adopted on 14 March in Strasbourg with a large majority.

Hormone-related disorders have gone up over the last 20 years and one of the causes behind this could be endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Swedish Social Democrat MEP Åsa Westlund, who wrote the report, explained: “*Even if we do not have all the answers, we do know enough to regulate these substances in accordance with the precautionary principle.*” Potential endocrine disruptors include for example steroid hormones, some pesticides, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), dioxins and plastic additives. More information in the [Press Release](#) and [Euractiv article](#).

E-health: US and EU have published roadmap to work together on eHealth/health IT

The European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have agreed on a roadmap to strengthen transatlantic cooperation in eHealth and Health information technologies (IT).

This builds on a Memorandum of Understanding on this topic, signed in 2010 under the auspices of the Transatlantic Economic Council. Over the next 18 months the new roadmap will guide the activities of the collaboration focusing on two high priority areas: Standards Development and Workforce Development. This cooperation will be presented in the joint EU-US eHealth/Health IT Cooperation Assembly during the EU's eHealth Week, hosted by the Irish Presidency in Dublin Ireland on 13-15 May 2013. More information on the Commission [website](#).

Pensions: State pensions must guarantee decent living standards for all, insist MEPs

In a resolution adopted on 22 March, the Social and Employment Affairs Committee stresses that safeguarding public pensions to ensure decent living standards for all in old age must remain a priority. They also call for the development of supplementary pension schemes and longer working lives to ensure the sustainability of pensions threatened by demographic ageing and strained public finances.

The resolution, drawn up by Ria Oomen-Ruijten (EPP, NL) and passed by 32 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions, is the employment and social affairs committee's response to the Commission white paper on pensions. The resolution

reminds that there are four people of working age for every person of retirement age and that in 50 years' time there will be only two to one. The Rapporteur declared: *"We need safe and sustainable pensions in all member states now and in the future. This is important for both young and old people. In the context of increases in longevity, declining birth rates and constraints on public finances, we are facing enormous challenges"*.

The resolution will be voted in plenary sitting in May 2013. More information on the Parliament's [website](#)

➤ **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**

Medical Devices: S&D Workshop on "Medical devices and In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device"

On 19 March the Rapporteur Roth-Berendt organised a 2nd Workshop on Medical devices and In Vitro Diagnostic (IVDs) in the context of the current review of the dispositions.

The workshop was chaired by MEP Roth-Berendt (S&D, DE) and speakers included notably representatives of Eucomed for the industry and of ESIP, the European Social Insurance Platform as well as the Belgian Healthcare Knowledge centre as well as the European Society of Cardiology.

The Rapporteur supports a Pre-market approval and a Change of notified bodies. Ms Dagmar Roth Berendt reiterated she favours a Pre-market approval for high-risk medical devices, considering to do it with a centralised authority.

The Rapporteur also clearly supports a legal basis for notified bodies and mentions public clinical trials

Dagmar Roth-Berendt wants to give a clear legal basis to notified bodies based on clear definitions.

Data mining, clearer rules of data protection, recruitment of experts and publication of names need to be looked at.

Dagmar Roth-Berendt seemed to oppose the contracting of external experts.

For more information, read the [Agenda](#) of the Workshop.

➤ **Mutuals and Social Economy**

European Mutual Statute: Adoption of the Own-Initiative Report on the European Mutual Statute

On 14 March, the European Parliament adopted the Own-Initiative Report on the European Mutual Statute by Rapporteur Luigi Berlinguer in plenary sitting. The intervention of MEP Bérès can be watched online ([Video](#)).

AIM members organised a Cocktail on the European Mutual Statute on 13 March in Strasbourg hosted by MEP Pervenche Bérès (S&D, FR) and in the presence of MEP Berlinguer (S&D, IT).

Now more than ever AIM members stress that a European Mutual Statute is essential to renew a competitive and social Europe within the current economic and social environment. Indeed, the current legal instruments do not make it possible for mutual societies to develop, as mutuals, at the European level.

The adoption of the own-initiative report has been broadly welcomed in a [Press Release](#) (fr) of French Socialists, in the Press: [Argus de l'Assurance](#) (fr), [Europolitique](#) (fr) and also by our partners AMICE, ICMIF and Cooperatives Europe. For more information, read the [AIM Press Release](#).

European Mutual Statute: Public consultation

The public Consultation on Mutual Societies is running now and until 14 June 2013. All mutuals and federations are invited to reply to the public consultation.

In some states, health mutuals and insurance mutuals are not allowed to operate due to the lack of existing legal framework, and have limited possibilities for cross-border activities with mutuals in other countries. The study contains details on characteristics, legal frameworks, corporate governance, and economic importance, as well on barriers that these enterprises face in Europe, when they wish to engage in activities across borders or to create groups. Period of consultation is from 11 March to 14 June 2013. The [questionnaire](#) of the Consultation is already available.

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

➤ Trends in health system

WHO Europe: The European health report 2012: Improvements in European health are not equal

The 2012 European health [Report](#)

describes the improvements in health in the WHO European Region and their uneven distribution within and between the 53 countries.

The study gives an overview of health status and trends in Europe at present. Another part of the study is dedicated to explaining how the set of WHO Europe targets was conceived. The last part of the report show the way forward to improve well-being in Europe.

The Report is also summarised in a [Video](#) explaining in 5 points the core of the report.

The findings of the report has been also commented among others in this [EU Observer article](#)



➤ Call for proposals, Consultations

State Aid: Commission consults on review of de minimis Regulation

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_de_minimis/index_en.html

Horizon 2020: Call for expressions of interest for Experts for Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-experts

EIP AHA: New round of Invitations for Commitment launched: your chance to join in the work of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy ageing

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eipaha/news/index/show/id/302>

➤ Studies

EU Commission: Social Europe: Current challenges and the way forward Annual Report of the Social Protection Committee (2012) p.115-123 Healthcare systems

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=9760&langId=en>

EPHJ: Mind the gap—reaching the European target of a 2-year increase in healthy life years in the next decade

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/03/13/eurpub.ckt030.full.pdf?papetoc>

WHO: Report on Patient participation in improving patient safety

<http://bit.ly/ZHgont>

EU Commission: Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review – March 2013

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1852&furtherNews=yes>

International Journal of Integrated Care: January-March Issue

<http://bit.ly/YwryQb>

Ecorys (EU Commission): Study on European Cooperation on Health Technology Assessment: Economic and governance analysis of the establishment of a permanent secretariat

http://ec.europa.eu/health/technology_assessment/docs/study_ecorys_european_cooperation_hta_en.pdf

Eurostat: Healthy life years in 2011

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-35_en.htm?locale=en

Worldbank: 22-country study of universal health coverage

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/02/14/World-Bank-Group-releases-22-country-study-of-universal-health-coverage>

Health events in Europe

- 10 April** MEP Conference “Social Protection EU-Maghreb” hosted by MEP Malika Benarab-Attou
[Information and registration](#)
- 18 April** EIP conference "Frailty in old age, a public health concern at EU level"
(by invitation only) [Register](#)
- 19 April** **AIM Member Socialist Mutuality (UNMS)'s 100th Anniversary**
Member event Brussels
- 13-15 May** eHealth week
Dublin, [Website of the event](#)
- 16 May** EPHA Event “Can EU Citizens Afford their Medicines? The Economic Crisis and Access to Medicines in Europe”
[Information](#)
- 20 – 21 June** EPSCO Council

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

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