

## Feature Stories



### European Mutual Statute

Commissioner Tajani announces a proposal for mutuals at Social Entrepreneurs Conference



### TTIP

Commission launches Consultation on investor-to-state dispute settlement



### Clinical Trials

Council and Parliament adopt common position on Clinical Trials



### Data Protection

Data Protection delayed to end of 2014

## Contents:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>AIM and You</b>                         | 2 |
| <b>European Institutions</b>               | 2 |
| <i>Council of Ministers</i>                | 2 |
| <i>European Commission</i>                 | 2 |
| <i>European Parliament</i>                 | 4 |
| <b>Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices</b> | 3 |
| <b>European Affairs</b>                    | 5 |
| <b>Mutuals</b>                             | 5 |
| <b>Health and Long-term care</b>           | 5 |
| <b>Health Events in Europe</b>             | 7 |

## Next Meeting and visit dates

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>7 February</b> | Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices WG<br>At AIM offices    |
| <b>3 March</b>    | Pensions WG<br>At AIM Offices                               |
| <b>6 March</b>    | Committee on the revision of AIM Statutes<br>At AIM Offices |
| <b>12 March</b>   | Fraud WG<br>At AIM offices                                  |
| <b>30 April</b>   | Internal Audit Committee<br>At AIM offices                  |

## Top Twitts



AIM @AIM\_Healthcare - 16 janv.  
@AntonioTajaniEU announces an initiative on the #EUMutualstatute after 22.01  
#mutuals4u #livetweet from the #SocEntEU Conference



AIM @AIM\_Healthcare - 16 janv.  
MEPs engaged for #social #economy, @toiapatrizia discusses with personalities  
from the #mutual sector #mutuals4u pic.twitter.com/ksBwWOQMa1



AIM @AIM\_Healthcare - 16 déc.  
#TTIP talks- 3rd round to start in Washington D.C. today, Key issues:  
bit.ly/1k7Guwv @EU\_TTIP\_team

### ➤ *AIM Activities*

#### **AIM Meetings:**

**20 January:** European Affairs Working Group

**23 January:** Mutuals Working Group

#### **Events AIM attended:**

On 14 January AIM Secretariat attended the meeting of the Education and Solidarity Network.

On 16-17 January, AIM Secretariat attended the EU Commission Conference 'Social Entrepreneurs: Have your Say'.

For more information, read the [dedicated article](#).

On 30 January, AIM Secretariat attended the Annual Event of Prescrire about Medicines Victims. More information is available on Prescrire's [website](#) (FR).

### ➤ *AIM Staff*



We have the pleasure to inform you that we are welcoming two new members of staff at AIM this month: Romain Chave and Athina Pantelidou.

Romain Chave is joining AIM as Junior Project Manager. He is in charge to support the Secretariat on European Affairs, and other working groups, such as Mutuals. He will also provide support for Communications and for logistics (statutory meetings). Romain speaks English and German, with French as mother tongue.



Athina Pantelidou is joining AIM as Intern until 15 April 2014. She is studying an advanced master programme in European Social Security in KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven). She is from Greece, Thessaloniki and speaks Greek as a native, English, German and Dutch. Contact [Romain](#) and [Athina](#).

## European Institutions

### ➤ *Council of Ministers*

#### **EU Greek presidency: The priorities of the Greek presidency in the EU Health policy.**

The Greek Presidency published the official programme for her presidency in EU from 1 January to 30 June 2014.

The three main non-legislative health priorities of the presidency are: Economic crisis and health care, Migration and Public Health and Healthy diet and physical activity.

Within legislative priorities, importance will be given to the progress of the proposals on medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic devices but also to the proposal for a Regulation on fees payable for Pharmacovigilance activities. The next goal will be the progress on a transparency Directive on pricing and reimbursement of medical products.

Council Conclusions on health and the economic crisis are also planned. Key Greek Presidency events will include the e- health forum 2014, the second High-Level e-Health Experts Conference and also a High-Level Conference on nutrition and physical activity.

One objectives of the Greek presidency, the revision of the EU Tobacco law is already closed to be achieved with a Compromise between the Council and the Parliament that was validated this month by the Health Committee in the Parliament. For more information visit the dedicated page on the official website [gr2014.eu](http://gr2014.eu).

### ➤ *European Commission*

#### **Chronic Diseases: EU Commission launches new Joint Action on Chronic Diseases**

On 29 January, the Joint Action for chronic diseases "CHRODIS" was launched at a kick - off meeting in Madrid. Joint actions are activities carried out by the European Union and one or more Member States or by the EU and the competent authorities of other countries in the frame of the Health Programme. This Joint action includes 38 organisations from 22 Member and this is the first action co-financed by the EU Health Programme under the 2013 plan.

CHRODIS Joint Action works in order to promote a mechanism of exchanging good practice among the member states with respect to tackle chronic diseases. It also aims at health promotion and prevention and particularly with issues such diabetes and persons with several long-term conditions.

The joint EC/OECD "Health at a Glance: Europe 2012" reported that in 2011, 30 million people suffered from diabetes in Europe. The absence of exercise, bad nutrition, smoking and alcohol, and exposure to chemical substances are proved to be dangerous factors for causing a chronic disease.

For more information please refer to this [page](#) of the European Commission.

### **TTIP: Commission launches Consultation on investment dispute settlement in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

*The Commission is to consult on new rules for investment dispute settlement in the investment provisions of TTIP.*

In early March, EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will launch a public consultation on a proposed EU text for the investment part of TTIP which will include sections on investment protection and on investor-to-state dispute settlement, or ISDS. This draft text will be accompanied by clear explanations for the non-experts.

The draft will include new and improved rules, including a code of conduct, to ensure arbitrators act impartially and are chosen fairly. Citizens across the EU will then have three months to comment.

For more information see the [Press Release](#) and the [Factsheet on Investor State Dispute Settlement](#). The consultation will be published on the [DG Trade Website](#).

### **TTIP: A group of experts to advise the European Commission**

*A stakeholder advisory group will provide the EU negotiating team with expert advice in the areas being negotiated in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks.*

The fourteen members of the group, representing different interests, will meet every 2 months in between negotiating rounds. They come from environmental, health, consumer and workers' interests and different business sectors (for instance: European Public Health Alliance, the European Consumers Association, BEUC or the European Services Forum). The group has a consultative role and will have access to negotiating documents. The first working session will be held on 25 February 2014. For more information, see the [Press Release](#) and visit the [Website](#) of the expert Group.

### **TTIP: Regulation on financial services**

*On 27 January the European Commission published its proposals for the creation of a framework for regulatory cooperation on financial services in the TTIP.*

The Commission is to establish, within the TTIP, an institutional framework of EU and US regulators which would ensure that the EU and US rules work together and would avoid regulatory arbitrage and duplicative application of rules. The Commission's opinion includes joint work to ensure implementation of internationally-agreed standards and a supervision examination of the existing rules to examine whether they create unnecessary barriers to trade.

Insurance and healthcare services are included into the financial services part of TTIP.

Find the opinion of the Commission [here](#). The [4th Round](#) of TTIP negotiations will be held 10-14 March in Brussels.

### **Insurance: Report on the Recast of the insurance mediation directive adopted by Economic Committee**

*The parliamentary committee Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) voted on the draft report on 22 January 2014. The new text aims at improving regulation in the retail insurance market.*

The new directive relative to insurance mediation should expand the scope of application of the previous directive (IMD1) to all distribution channels, clarify the exercise of the freedom of establishment as well as simplify the procedure for cross-border entry to insurance markets across the EU.

Insurance mediation carried out by statutory systems of social security governed by public law should be excluded as an amendment in this sense was proposed and accepted. The text will now be voted in plenary on 22 February 2014.

## **Public Procurement: New European rules adopted**

*On 15 January 2014, a new Directive regarding public procurement was approved by the European Parliament.*

The main novelties are the introduction of award criteria promoting environmental considerations, social aspects and innovation when choosing a contractor. The bidding procedure will be simplified aiming at reducing the administrative burden by over 80% according to the Commission.

A new simplified regime will be created for social, health, cultural and assimilated services with a threshold increased to 750 000 €. The Directive should not affect the social security legislation of the Member States which are free to organise the provision of services of general interest including social services. To fight against social dumping, the new laws will include rules on subcontracting: Contractors and subcontractors that do not comply with EU labour laws will be excluded from bidding. Member states will have 24 months to implement the new rules into national law.

More details can be found in the Parliament [Press Release](#).

## **E-health: e-health Action Plan 2020 supported by the European Parliament**

*On 14 January, Members of the European Parliament voted on a resolution in support of the eHealth Action plan 2014-2020 presented by the European Commission in 2012.*

Considering that the development of e-health could improve the efficiency of healthcare systems and the wellbeing of patients, the European Parliament urged the Commission and the member states to promote the development of user-friendly, safe and accessible e-health services across the European Union. This development should be fostered by a sustainable funding model and involve all stakeholders: health insurance funds, national health institutions, healthcare professionals. The e-health action plan 2020 launched by the Commission aims at empowering patients and healthcare systems and promoting the utilisation of devices and technologies to provide more efficient health services and optimise healthcare spending. More information can be found in the Parliament [Press Release](#).



### ➤ **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**

#### **Clinical Trials: Council and Parliament find agreement in the revision of EU rules on clinical trials.**

*On 20 December the Council and the Parliament reached an agreement on the revision of the Directive 2001/20/CE on clinical trials. The new regulation aims at simplifying and accelerating the authorisation procedure and deals with other issues such as transparency, ethic committees and tacit agreement.*

The new regime for the application procedure provides that clinical trials will be introduced at a single entry point. Under the current directive an application must be submitted to each member state where the clinical trial will be conducted.

Regarding new transparency procedures, member states will now be obliged to publish every clinical trial results within a year, in a publicly accessible database managed by the European Medicines Agency. Member states have a deadline of 60 days to respond to an application. If not, then authorisation is given automatically. Moreover as for ethic committees, each member state will make their independent assessment of ethical issues. You can find more information in the Council [Press Release](#).

### ➤ **European Affairs**

#### **Data Protection: Adoption postponed until end of 2014**

*On 22 January, a political agreement was reached by Commissioner for Justice, Ms Reding and the Greek Presidency and upcoming Italian Presidency of the Council with the aim to find an agreement on the data protection proposal before the end of 2014.*

More than a date a roadmap has also been elaborated to get to this agreement by the end of the year. Yet, the implementation of the roadmap and the deadline will very much depend on member states' progress in the Council.

For the moment the state-of-play is still not clear. Several states continue to oppose a regulation among which, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Hungary and Slovenia.

In the Parliament, the vote in the Plenary is scheduled for March or April 2014 in order to validate the final Report of the main Committee and thus to have an official common position of the EP. For more information about the current state, please refer to this [article](#) by EU Observer.



©EU Council

**Clinical data: National Health Service patient data: accessible to drug and insurance firms in the UK**

*In the United Kingdom, drug and insurance companies will be able to purchase from March patients' data from a unique medical database.*

This data includes mental health conditions and diseases such as cancer or even smoking or drinking habits. Companies that are interested can apply to the new Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and pay to extract the information which will not remain completely anonymous (the so called "pseudonymisation" procedure).

On the one hand advocates of this new initiative claim that it will save lives and support the health system by making drug side effects or the performance of the hospital surgical units more transparent. On the other hand, privacy experts warn that the extracted information will contain NHS numbers, date of birth, postcode, ethnicity and gender. Mark Davies, the centre's public assurance director, indicates there is a "small risk", that certain patient data could be re-identified due to their former existing medical data. More details can be found in the Guardian's [article](#).

### **Fraud: First Commission Study on Fraud in Healthcare**

*The study which was published in December 2013, is the first study of this scope giving an accurate picture of fraud in healthcare in all EU member states.*

The [study](#) begins with recognizing that citizens of the European Union spend the remarkable figure of over 1 trillion euro a year on healthcare, while the healthcare sector is one of the areas that is particularly vulnerable to corruption. The study aims at identifying the scope of fraud in the healthcare system as well as the capacity of member states to prevent and tackle fraud cases. The study further identifies 6 various typologies of corruption: bribery in medical service delivery; procurement corruption; improper marketing relations; misuse of high-level positions; undue reimbursement claims; fraud and embezzlement of medicines.

Another delivery of the study is to establish that all member states are concerned by the problem of fraud, though the pattern of fraud based on different typologies does differ. In conclusion, the study also lays down several best practices to counter fraud in healthcare. These are for example anti-bribery legislation, the centralization of procurement, the setting up of control mechanisms in the healthcare system or the introduction of transparent waiting lists. For more information, also report to the [Executive Summary](#) of the Study.



©EU Commission, Extract from the Executive Summary

### ➤ **Mutuals and Social Economy**

#### **European Mutual Statute: A proposal for mutuals announced by Commissioner Tajani**

*During the Conference of Strasbourg, the European Commissioner Tajani announced a proposal for mutuals.*

After the positive results of the Consultation on the creation of a statute for mutual in September 2013, the Commission had ordered a study to assess the possible impacts of a regulation. This impact assessment is to be concluded by the end of February. Commissioner Tajani already announced on 16 January 2014, at the Conference on social entrepreneurship, the very likely positive outcome of the study and declared that a proposal would be made before the end of the current legislation of the Commission (October 2014). AIM and all the mutual stakeholders welcomed very warmly this declaration and remain mobilised to ask for a prompt proposal from the Commission. See the AIM [Press Release](#) for more information.

#### **Social Economy: Mutuals gathered at the Social Entrepreneurs Conference in Strasbourg #mutuals4u**

*AIM participated in a Conference organised by the European Commission on Social entrepreneurship on 16 and 17 January 2014 in Strasbourg.*

This Conference aimed at assessing the European initiatives and actions regarding social enterprises, preparing the future policies and giving the opportunity to the stakeholders to exchange.

AIM, its members as well as European partner associations have been representing the European mutual movement on a stand entitled #Mutuals4U. This stand involved the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), the





Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe (AMICE), the Mutualité Française, the Regional Unions of Alsace, Lorraine and Burgundy, and various European mutuals (MGEN and Harmonie Mutuelles - France, Solidaris and ANMC - Belgium, Knappschaft - Germany). Specific examples of social innovation projects carried out by mutuals were such as the impact of environment and air on health. Commissioner Barnier, Andor and Tajani were speaking at this Conference and various key personalities visited the Stand (see picture with Commissioner Barnier) This conference ended with the release of the Strasbourg Declaration pointing the key role played by social enterprises (among which Mutuals) to create inclusive and sustainable growth for the European Union. Throughout the whole conference, a live tweet was animated around the hashtag #mutuals4u: all key messages of the Conference can be found by using this [hashtag](#). Find more information on the [Website](#) of the Conference.

## Health and Long-term care

### ➤ Trends in health system

#### **WHO: WHO director calls to action on Non-communicable diseases**

*The New OECD report gives more figures about the impact of the crisis on the health sector*

Zsuzanna Jakab, Director of the WHO declared that “*the cost of action to counteract non-communicable diseases and tobacco is far lower than the cost of inaction*”. In Europe, the central and eastern parts of the region are characterised by the greater figure of premature mortality caused by NCDs, whereas the western parts of the region have a larger proportion of people living with NCDs.

The director reminded that in 2003, the framework convention on tobacco control ([FCTC](#)) was signed as the very first World Health Organisation (WHO) international treaty. More will have to be done in many countries to meet the global voluntary NCD target for a 30 per cent relative reduction of tobacco use by 2025. In particular, the director referred to the necessary toughening of tobacco control legislation in Europe, while member states are in the process to adopt a new Directive on Tobacco products.

For more information on this, you can read the article from [The Parliament](#).

### ➤ 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](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 – 25.04.2014 (*new deadline*)

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/common/consultations/tax/2013\\_vat\\_public\\_bodies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/tax/2013_vat_public_bodies_en.htm)

#### **State aid: Commission consults on draft Communication on State aid to promote Important Projects of Common European Interest**

28.01.2014 – 28.02.2014

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-84\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-84_en.htm?locale=en)

### ➤ Studies, Videos

Cross-border Healthcare

#### **EU Commission: Seeking healthcare in another EU Member State**

[http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en\\_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=ND0313476](http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=ND0313476)

Environment

#### **WHO: Health and environment- communicating the risks**

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/233759/e96930.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/233759/e96930.pdf)

Ageing

## Attitudes about Aging: A Global Perspective

30.01.2014

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/01/30/attitudes-about-aging-a-global-perspective/>

Palliative Care

## WHO: Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance: First ever global atlas identifies unmet need for palliative care

28.01.2014

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2014/palliative-care-20140128/en/>

Crisis and Health

## EU Health Observatory: New website Health and Finance Crisis Monitor

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

Health Systems

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

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

## 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

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 13-14 February   | <b>European Council</b><br>Brussels   |
| 6-7 March        | <b>Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting</b>                                       |
| 10 March         | <b>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Meeting (EPSCO)</b> |
| 20-21 March      | <b>European Council</b><br>Brussels   |
| March 2014       | <b>Greek Presidency Nutrition and physical activity Conference</b><br>Greece          |
| 28-29 April 2014 | <b>Informal Meeting of Health ministers</b><br>Greece                                 |
| May 2014         | <b>World Health Assembly</b>  |
| 20 June          | <b>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Meeting (EPSCO)</b> |
| 26-27 June       | <b>European Council</b><br>Brussels   |

*The monthly AIM Flash is compiled by Blandine Cassou-Mounat, Romain Chave and Athina Pantelidou.*

*Realisation & Layout: Blandine Cassou-Mounat*

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

'AIM Flash' © monthly publication of the AIM Secretariat

AIM asserts copyright in all the text of this publication. Reproduction of short extracts is welcome provided the source is quoted. Reproduction of complete articles requires written permission in advance from the AIM office.