



PRESS RELEASE – 24 April 2017

CPME supports the European Immunization Week

“Vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent communicable diseases. We, as health professionals, should be devoted to increase vaccination rates through communication, outreach, governance and cooperation. At the same time, we need to find solutions to tackle vaccination hesitancy.”

CPME Vice President, Prof. Dr Rutger Jan van der Gaag

The annual European Immunization Week, led and coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, is taking a place on 24-30 April 2017. It emphasises that it is important to have strong political support for immunisation to not risk the re-emergence of highly contagious diseases which not only affect the individual but also place a considerable burden on health care systems and parents.

CPME welcomes this year’s European Immunization Week which runs under the theme ***Vaccines Work – vaccination protects health at every stage of life***. It aims to raise awareness for the importance of immunisation and to increase vaccination coverage.

The campaign highlights that every child deserves an equal opportunity to lead a healthy life and that vaccination is a vital step to achieve this. Adolescent immunisations and booster doses given early in life are instrumental to ensure protection of children. Moreover, immunisations are equally important for adults, giving them the opportunity to catch up on vaccinations which were missed out or not available before.

CPME, representing national medical associations across Europe, in particular supports the immunisation of health professionals. Immunising people involved in health care not only protects them and their patients, but provides a good demonstration of the importance of vaccinations to the public.

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All CPME Policy documents are available at: www.cpme.eu

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