



Statement of the European Council of Medical Orders on the impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on health and the medical profession

The CEOM calls for caution on TTIP negotiators about its potential consequences for public health, healthcare, medicine, education, the environment and the recognition of professional qualifications.

It addresses the following recommendations to the European Commission, the governments of the EU Member States and the medical regulatory organizations:

- Trade agreements cannot in any way interfere with the ability of governments to legislate on public health and regulate healthcare. The right to receive care and public health protection are above the interests of any trade agreement.
- The agreements promoting and protecting public health and health services take precedence over commercial interests. The CEOM recommends opposing any provision that would jeopardize regulation of healthcare and access to public health. TTIP cannot restrict the right to health and Member States' obligation to ensure a high level of health protection as enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- TTIP should provide significant exclusions in order to protect health services and public health. Trade and liberalization imposed by TTIP could compel Member States to privatize their national health systems, which could lead to inequalities in health benefits and a decrease in the quality of healthcare and of the number of health professionals. The consequences would be disastrous for many citizens, especially the most vulnerable, and for national solidarity.

The CEOM calls on negotiators to make transparent the debate on trade agreements that have an impact on public health by providing all the necessary documents in accordance with the Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

The CEOM emphasizes that, in the interest of patients, access to health and the independence of health professionals must imperatively be preserved, in a quality of care objective.

Therefore, it is of the utmost necessity to exclude from TTIP anything that could have an impact on public health, especially health services, the medical profession and access to medicines.