

European Forum for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Promoting Integrated Healthcare in Europe
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Declaration of the European Platform/Forum for CAM/NCM

EFCAM has been formed in response to the EU Commission's call for single umbrella bodies to represent the various stakeholders sharing broad areas of interest and concern in the EU.

EFCAM is therefore established to represent the collective views and promote the interests of professional practitioners, patients and users of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in Europe. In this way EU and other institutions can address and consult with one body on issues concerning CAM.

CAM and/or NCM

The term >complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)< is commonly used in the EU and is used in this paper in preference to >non-conventional medicine (NCM)<, which has been used to cover the same area.

Definition of CAM :

A diverse range of autonomous healthcare practices used for health maintenance, health promotion, disease prevention and for the treatment of ill-health. These practices can also be integrated for use together with conventional medical approaches to create a broader range of healthcare options for the public.

CAM practices share the following principles :

- Holistic
- Enhancing self-healing capacity
- Natural
- Safety of patients and users
- Traditional and established use
- Open to innovation
- Prevention
- Health support
- Curative
- Can be used in combinations or individually
- Increasing the range of options for patient care and treatment
- Promoting self-responsibility for health

Context:

CAM approaches to health care are used across the EU by a high and increasing percentage of the public
CAM approaches are practised by medical doctors and other healthcare professionals across the EU each within the boundaries of their own competence

CAM approaches are not uniformly recognised throughout the EU and the right to practise them varies from country to country

Access to CAM care varies from country to country and between socio-economic groups
Costs of conventional care continue to rise while the preventive and curative approaches of CAM offer both short-term and long-term cost benefits.

In 1997 the European Parliament called on the EU Commission to act in the area of CAM *

People are seeking a more holistic approach to healthcare.

Aims of CAM Platform :

To ensure freedom of choice in healthcare for the EU public

To have CAM included in the EU health policy and strategy

To convince policy makers of the value of CAM

To pursue recognition of these practices

To pursue the legal right to practise CAM throughout the EU by appropriately trained and regulated practitioners

To advise on regulatory structures and processes appropriate to CAM disciplines

To act as an advisory body to EU and other institutions on the recognition and regulation of CAM

To seek to establish a specific budget line for research appropriate to CAM approaches

To seek the participation of CAM experts in EU research project evaluation committees

To seek the participation of CAM experts in EU CAM research projects

To seek the participation of CAM experts in EMEA and other relevant EU bodies

To improve accessibility of the EU public to CAM services and products

To improve the availability of CAM services and products to the EU public

Working Principles and Values of EFCAM :

Democratic

Accountable

Transparent

Non-discriminatory

Non-profit-making

Participation/Membership :

Membership of EFCAM is open to pan-european and national organisations of CAM-practitioners together with pan-european and national organisations of patients supporting CAM.

Resolution on the status of non-conventional medicine A'-0075/1997 European Parliament

Date for response 10 of January

Date of next meeting : 10 of March