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ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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France adopted mandatory continuing education for all physicians more than 15 years ago, but has never implemented the law. Now the French parliament has passed a new law regarding CME/CPD: an increased tax -- amounting to some 150 million euro -- on the overall income of pharmaceutical companies, the proceeds to be allocated to support CME/CPD.

The Assembly first voted for increasing the industry tax from 1% to 1.6%, and weeks later, the Senate supported the bill. It now goes to a commission to work out the final details. The implementing body will be the [Organisme de Gestion Conventiionnelle \(OGC\)](#) now a not-for-profit body that collects funds from the Assurance Maladie Sécurité Sociale (70 million euro annually) and allocates these to medical associations proposing CME events for physicians in private practice, mostly GPs.

Under the new law, the OGC will become a public body, re-named OGDPC (Organisme de Gestion du Développement Professionnel Continu), collecting not only the social security funds but also the additional industry tax. These will then be allocated by OGDPC to medical associations and hospitals for CME events. Just how the 220 million euro is to be distributed is yet to be determined.

The medical unions supported the new law, not surprisingly, and are likely to influence the distribution process. Industry is less happy, and expectations are that companies will reduce the funds they currently use to support CME/CPD activities. Will the new method of funding reduce any perception of bias in topic or faculty selection or will the concern shift to the role of government or medical union influence? Finally, will France ever implement mandatory CME? We await the future with a mix of trepidation and excitement.