



Brussels, Monday 6 August 2007

Dear Vice President Verheugen,
Dear Commissioner Kyprianou,

On 19 July, a public consultation was launched by DG Enterprise and Industry on "The future of Pharmaceuticals for human use in Europe" with closing date 12 October.

The consultation paper affects a wide range of highly complex and sensitive issues that touch all European citizens and that can have a major impact on national health systems and public health policies. These issues also touch areas of policy that remain within the exclusive competence of Member States and on which Article 152 explicitly excludes the possibility of EU legislation.

Because of the complexity of the issues involved and the need to consider the wider context of health policy as a whole, we feel that the consultation period of twelve weeks is not sufficient to allow all the interested stakeholders to provide a contribution to the debate. We ask you therefore to postpone the deadline to submit comments to the end of the year. Furthermore we ask you to translate the consultation paper in all EU languages to allow an active participation from a wider group of interested parties, especially those working in health care.

Given the scope and the nature of the topic we invite the Commission to take the due time to consult the wider public and to carefully assess the impact of all policy options before issuing a communication or any other proposals on the future of medicines in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Lara Garrido-Herrero,
Secretary General.