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Open Letter

Governance change needed: EU pharmaceutical policy should be the responsibility of a health focussed directorate within the European Commission.

This is a year of change for the EU institutions. A new Parliament, Commission and possibly a new Treaty. This is an opportunity to review the way that specific policy areas are managed.

As the preparations are being made to shape the new College of Commissioners, the **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)**, **European Consumers Organisation (BEUC)** and **Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)** calls on the President of the European Commission and Member States to make health the main driver for pharmaceutical policy at EU level by giving the lead role in medicines to a health focussed directorate within the European Commission.

Pharmaceutical policy is an integral part of public health policy making. Medicines form a major part of treatment measures and are therefore of key importance in safeguarding health. The access to safe, effective and high quality medicines is a human right. Therefore, pharmaceutical policy making should put health and human rights at its core.

The reorganisation of the European Commission and the possible implementation of the Lisbon Treaty provide the opportunity to make a change in the EU governance of pharmaceutical policy.

Putting the needs of EU citizens first should be the European Commission's number one priority. The Commission, as the guardian of the Treaty, should recognise the duty to "*ensure a high level of human health protection*". This can only be achieved if public health concerns, protection of patients and safety of medicines are ensured by the DG with responsibility for health.

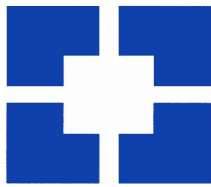
Aligning EU methods with Member States. Across the EU, it is Ministers of Health that manage pharmaceutical policy but the European level is out of alignment because DG Enterprise has had this competence. Now is the time for Europe to align its policy framework with those of its Member States and their citizens.



BEUC - BEUC's membership includes 43 reputed, independent national consumer organisations from some thirty European countries (EU, EEA and applicant countries). BEUC, the European Consumer's organisation, acts as a sort of embassy for these organisations in Brussels and its main task is to represent its members and defend the interests of all Europe's consumers. More info: www.beuc.eu Contact: Ilaria.Passarani@beuc.eu



The **European Public Health Alliance** (EPHA) is the largest European Platform representing approximately 100 members working in the field of health. Our membership is unique in its diversity this statement is supported by representations from patient groups, healthcare professionals, public sector bodies, disease-specific organisations, treatment groups and others. Our membership includes representatives at international, European, national, regional and local level More info: www.epha.org Contact: r.hughes@epha.org



AIM - The Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) is a grouping of autonomous health insurance and social protection bodies operating according to the principles of solidarity and not-for-profit orientation. Currently, AIM's membership consists of 42 national federations representing 27 countries. In Europe, they provide social coverage against sickness and other risks to more than 170 million people. AIM strives via its network to make an active contribution to the preservation and improvement of access to health care for everyone. More info: www.aim-mutual.org Contact: rita.kessler@aim-mutual.org

EPHA Members

- 1) Action on Smoking and Health-ASH (United Kingdom)
- 2) ACTIS - Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs-Actis (Norway)
- 3) Albanian Association for Prevention and Rehabilitation from aids and Drugs-APRAD (Albania)
- 4) Alcohol Focus Scotland-AFS (United Kingdom)
- 5) Armenian Public Health Union-APHU (Armenia)
- 6) Associação De Defesa Dos Utentes Do Sangue-ADUS (Portugal)
- 7) Association for Social Inclusion Persons with Mental Retardation-ASIT (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 8) Association Nationale de Prévention en Alcoologie et Addictologie-ANPA (France)
- 9) Association of European Cancer Leagues-ECL (Europe-wide)
- 10) Association of Natural Medicine in Europe-ANME (Germany)
- 11) British Heart Foundation - Health Promotion Research Group-BHF HPRG (United Kingdom)
- 12) Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation-Studiorum (Macedonia)
- 13) Chartered Institute of Environmental Health-CIEH (United Kingdom)
- 14) Coalition of Associations in Healthcare-KUZ-CAH (Croatia)
- 15) Comité Scientifique Pro Anima (France)
- 16) Croatian Association for Sanitary Engineering-HUSI (Croatia)
- 17) Cyprus Turkish Medical Association-CTMA (North Cyprus)
- 18) Dental Health Foundation-DHF (Bulgaria)
- 19) Diabetes UK (United Kingdom)
- 20) Europa Donna -The European Breast Cancer Coalition (Europe-wide)
- 21) European AIDS Treatment Group-EATG (Europe-wide)
- 22) European Alcohol Policy Alliance-Eurocare (Previously European Council for Alcohol Research Rehabilitation and Education) (Europe-wide)
- 23) European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion-EUROSAFE (Europe-wide)
- 24) European Association of Hospital Managers-EAHM (Europe-wide)
- 25) European Association of Hospital Pharmacists-EAHP (Europe-wide)
- 26) European CanCer Organisation-ECCO (Previously Federation of European Cancer Societies-FECS) (Europe-wide)
- 27) European Chiropractors' Union-ECU (Europe-wide)
- 28) European Committee for Homeopathy-ECH (Europe-wide)
- 29) European Council for Classical Homeopathy-ECCH (Europe-wide)
- 30) European Council of Doctors for Plurality in Medicine ECPM (Europe-wide)
- 31) European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless-FEANTSA (Europe-wide)

- 32) European Federation of Nurses Associations-EFN (Europe-wide)
- 33) European Federation of Patients' Associations for Anthroposophic Medicine-EFPAM (Europe-wide)
- 34) European Heart Network-EHN (Europe-wide)
- 35) European Network for Smoking Prevention-ENSP (Belgium)
- 36) European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy-ER WCPT (Europe-wide)
- 37) European Respiratory Society-ERS (Europe-wide)
- 38) European Shiatsu Federation-ESF (Europe-wide)
- 39) European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases-ESCMID (Europe-wide)
- 40) Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK-FPH(United Kingdom)
- 41) Faculty of Health - University of Brighton (United Kingdom)
- 42) Finnish Diabetes Association-FDF (Finland)
- 43) Fundación de Ciencias del Medicamento y Productos Sanitarios-FUNDAMED (Spain)
- 44) General Osteopathic Council-GOsc (United Kingdom)
- 45) Global Alliance for TB Drug Development-TB Alliance (USA)
- 46) Green Doctors Ukraine (Ukraine)
- 47) Health Action International – Europe-HAI (Europe-wide)
- 48) Health Development Promotional and Educational Center CEPRO-MED (Serbia)
- 49) Hygiène Publique en Hainaut/Institut d'Hygiène et de Bactériologie du Hainaut-HPH/IPHP (Belgium)
- 50) INDEX Foundation (Bulgaria)
- 51) International Centre of Health Protection-HERA (Russia)
- 52) International Diabetes Federation - European Region-IDF (Global)
- 53) International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations-IVAA (Global)
- 54) International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network-IPPF EN (Global)
- 55) Italian Institute for Quality of Life-IVQ (Italy)
- 56) Life Quality Improvement Organisation-LET/FLIGHT (Croatia)
- 57) Malta Health Network-MHN (Malta)
- 58) Mental Health Europe – Santé Mentale Europe-MHE SME (Europe-wide)
- 59) National Health Alliance of Serbia and National Association of Emergency Medical Staff of Serbia-NAZS and NAZHMP (Serbia)
- 60) National Heart Forum-NHF (United Kingdom)
- 61) Netherlands Association for Community Health Services-GGD (Netherlands)
- 62) North West of England Region (United Kingdom)
- 63) Patient Fertility Association-CHEN (Israel)
- 64) Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union-PGEU (Europe-wide)
- 65) PIN for Health (Croatia)
- 66) Romanian Association Against AIDS - Constanta Branch-ARAS (Romania)
- 67) Romtens Foundation (Romania)
- 68) Royal College of Nursing-RCN (United Kingdom)
- 69) Royal College of Physicians of London-RCP (United Kingdom)
- 70) Royal Society for Public Health-RSPH (United Kingdom)
- 71) SALUS Charitable Foundation (Ukraine)
- 72) Slovenian Coalition for Health (Slovenia)
- 73) SOS Health Association (Bulgaria)
- 74) Sustainable World Foundation (Bulgaria)
- 75) Thalassaemia International Federation-TIF (Cyprus)
- 76) The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region-ASPHER (Europe-wide)
- 77) The European Men's Health Forum-EMHF (Europe-wide)
- 78) The European Older People's Platform-AGE (Europe-wide)
- 79) The Genesis Association-GENESIS (Georgia)
- 80) The Health & Europe Centre (United Kingdom)
- 81) The Institute of Public Health in Ireland (Ireland)
- 82) The Union of Lithuanian Health Psychologists-ULHP (Lithuania)
- 83) Turkish Pharmacists' Association-TEB (Turkey)
- 84) Universal Education Foundation-UEF (France)
- 85) Wiener Internationale Akademie für Ganzheitsmedizin-GAMED (Austria)
- 86) World Cancer Research Fund International-WCRF (United Kingdom)

BEUC members

- 1) Altroconsumo (Italy)

- 2) Arbeitskammer - AK (Austria)
- 3) Association of Polish Consumers - Stowarzyszenie Konsumentów Polskich – SKP (Poland)
- 4) Associação Portuguesa para a Defesa do Consumidor - DECO (Portugal)
- 5) Association for Consumers' Protection - APC (Romania)
- 6) Association for the Quality of Life - E.K.PI.ZO (Greece)
- 7) Bulgarian National Consumers Association - BNAP (Bulgaria)
- 8) Confederación de Consumidores y Usuarios - CECU (Spain)
- 9) Consommation, Logement et Cadre de Vie - CLCV (France)
- 10) Consumentenbond – CB (Netherlands)
- 11) Consumer Focus (United Kingdom)
- 12) Consumers' Association of Ireland – CAI (Ireland)
- 13) Consumers' Organisation of Macedonia – OPM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- 14) Consumers' Protection Center - KEPKA (Greece)
- 15) Croatian Union of the Consumer Protection Associations – Hrvatski Savez Udruga za Zaštitu Potrošač – Potrošač (Croatia)
- 16) Cyprus Consumers' Association (Cyprus)
- 17) Czech association of consumers TEST (Czech Republic)
- 18) Estonian Consumers Union - ETL - Eesti Tarbijakaitse Liit (Estonia)
- 19) Fédération Romande des Consommateurs - FRC (Switzerland)
- 20) Forbrugerrådet - FR (Denmark)
- 21) Forbrukerrådet (Norway)
- 22) General Consumers' Federation of Greece - INKA (Greece)
- 23) Għaqda tal-Konsumaturi – CA (Malta)
- 24) Kuluttajat-Konsumenterna ry – KK (Finland)
- 25) Kuluttajavirasto (Finland)
- 26) Latvian National Association for Consumer Protection - PIAA (Latvia)
- 27) National Association for Consumer Protection in Hungary - NACPH - OFE - Országos Fogyasztóvédelmi Egyesület (Hungary)
- 28) Neytendasamtökin - NS (Iceland)
- 29) Organisation Générale des Consommateurs - OR.GE.CO (France)
- 30) Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios – OCU (Spain)
- 31) Polish Consumer Federation National Council - Federacja Konsumentów (Poland)
- 32) SOS – Consumers Protection Association (Czech Republic)
- 33) Stiftung Warentest (Germany)
- 34) Suomen Kuluttajaliitto - SK (Finland)
- 35) Test-Achats / Test-Aankoop (Belgium)
- 36) The Swedish Consumers' Association - Sveriges Konsumenter (Sweden)
- 37) UFC - Que Choisir (France)
- 38) Union Luxembourgeoise des Consommateurs – ULC (Luxembourg)
- 39) Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband - vzbv (Germany)
- 40) Verein für Konsumenten-information - VKI (Austria)
- 41) Which? (United Kingdom)
- 42) ZSS - Association of Slovak Consumers (Slovakia)
- 43) Zveza Potrošnikov Slovenije – ZPS(Slovenia)

AIM Members

1. Alliance Nationale des Mutualités Chrétiennes (ANMC) (Belgium)
2. Benenden Healthcare (United Kingdom)
3. Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) (Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana)
4. British United Provident Association Ltd. (BUPA) (United Kingdom)
5. Bundesverband der Betriebskrankenkassen GbR (BKK) (Germany)
6. Caisse Centrale de la Mutualité Sociale Agricole (CCMSA) (France)
7. Caisse Mutuelle Laïque (CML), Lebanon
8. Caisse Mutualiste Interprofessionnelle Marocaine (CMIM) (Morocco)
9. Caisse Nationale des Organismes de Prévoyance Sociale (CNOPS) (Morocco)
10. Confederación Argentina de Mutualidades (CAM) (Argentina)
11. Confederación Nacional de Mutualidades (CONAM) (Argentina)
12. Conseil Supérieur de la Mutualité Luxembourgeoise (CSM) (Luxemburg)
13. Federación Argentina de Mutuales de Salud (FAMSA) (Argentina)
14. Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française (FNMF) (France)
15. Fédération des Mutuelles Grecques (O.A.T.Y.E) (Greece)
16. Federazione Italiana della Mutualità Integrativa Volontaria (FIMIV)

17. Gestarsalud (Colombia)
18. Innungskrankenkassen (IKK e.V.) (Germany)
19. Knappschaft - Hauptverwaltung Bochum (Germany)
20. La Mutuelle d'Action Sociale (la MAS) (Morocco)
21. La Rwandaise d'Assurance Maladie (RAMA) (Rwanda)
22. Les Mutualités Libres (MLOZ) (Belgium)
23. Maccabi Healthcare Service (MAC), Israel
24. Mutuelle de la Fonction Publique (MFP) (Burundi)
25. Mutuelle Générale du Personnel des Administrations Publiques (MGPAP) (Morocco)
26. Mutuelle Générale des Fonctionnaires et Agents de l'État de Côte d'Ivoire (MUGEF-CI) (Ivory Coast)
27. santésuisse (Switzerland)
28. Spitzenverband der landwirtschaftlichen Sozialversicherung (LSV-SpV) (Germany)
29. Svaz Zdravotních Pojišťoven (SZP) (Association of Health Insurance Companies in the Czech Republic)
30. União das Mutualidades Portuguesas (UMP) (Portugal)
31. Union Nationale des Mutualités Libérales (Belgium)
32. Union Nationale des Mutualités Neutres (UNMN) (Belgium)
33. Union Nationale des Mutualités Socialistes (UNMS) (Belgium)
34. Union Techniques des Mutuelles Santé au Liban (UTML), Lebanon
35. Union Technique de la Mutualité Malienne (UTM) (Mali)
36. Vzajemna Zdravstvena Zavarovalnica d.v.z. (VZZ) (Mutual Health Insurance Company) (Slovenia)
37. Verband der Ersatzkassen e. V. (vdek) (Germany)
38. Voluntary Health Insurance Board (VHI) (Ireland)
39. Všeobecná Zdravotní Pojišťovna (VZP CR) (General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic)
40. Všeobecná Zdravotná Poisťovňa (VZP SR) (General Health Insurance Company, Ltd Slovak Republic)
41. Vzajemna Zdravstvena Zavarovalnica d.v.z. (VZZ) (Mutual Health Insurance Company, Slovenia)
42. Zorgverzekeraars Nederland (ZN) (the Netherlands)