

Brussels, 26 April 2012

**Stakeholder involvement in the Second EU Joint Action on health technology assessment (HTA)**

Dear Mr. Rys,

Dear Mr. Kristensen and Mr. Rüter,

Based on the experience gained to date in the current framework of the EUnetHTA Joint Action Stakeholder Forum, we write to share our views and expectations in relation to the involvement of stakeholders in the second Joint Action on HTA.

First and foremost, it is important to stress that HTA bodies and networks should be independent. An HTA intended to support healthcare decision-making must remain independent from stakeholders' interests, whilst taking into account all relevant available information.

Nevertheless, we believe the second Joint Action on HTA could benefit from more extensive, transparent and focused consultations with stakeholders, who contribute based on their different expertise and experience, by:

- strengthening the role of the Stakeholder Forum. This pool of experts can be consulted and can provide advice according to the different perspectives and experiences represented, in addition to its role of receiving and disseminating information;
- increasing clarity with respect to the roles and responsibilities of all EUnetHTA bodies within the governance structure of the Joint Action, including the role of the Stakeholder Forum therein;
- securing timely, transparent and equitable access to the process and outputs of the Joint Action at all levels;
- adapting the forms of stakeholder involvement to the altered objectives and tasks of the Joint Action and future network;
- increasing stakeholder consultation on strategic issues (e.g. long- and short-term objectives and priorities);
- acknowledging the different nature of the various stakeholders and the different kind of input they can provide both in terms of content and resources to contribute to the work of the Joint Action and facilitate their equal participation as necessary;
- exploring new forms of dialogue such as experts' meetings and other discussion fora not limited to written comments or responses to consultations;

- involving stakeholders early and providing them with adequate time to provide input.

We believe that these principles fully reflect the concept of stakeholder consultation foreseen in Art.15 of the Directive on the application of patient's rights in cross-border healthcare (Directive 2011/24/EU).

All undersigned organisations involved in the EUnetHTA Joint Action Stakeholder Forum remain committed to bringing a valuable contribution to the EUnetHTA Joint Action and to any future EU initiatives on HTA.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

- AESGP, The Association of the European Self-Medication Industry
- AIM, Association Internationale de la Mutualité (International Association of Mutual benefit societies)
- BEUC, The European Consumers' Organisation
- COCIR, European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry
- CPME, Standing Committee of European Doctors
- ECPC, European Cancer Patient Coalition
- EDMA, European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association
- EFPIA, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
- EGA, European Generic Medicines Association
- EPF, European Patients' Forum
- ESIP, European Social Insurance Platform
- Eucomed, Medical Technology
- EuropaBio, European Association of Bioindustries
- EURORDIS, European Organisation for Rare Diseases
- GIRP, The European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers
- HOPE, European Hospital and Healthcare Federation