

From: John Bowis [<mailto:john.bowis@fipra.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 12:27 PM
To: president@eahp.eu
Cc: laura.batchelor@fipra.com; John Bowis
Subject: Invitation to Lunch Discussion on Sustainable Pricing Approaches for Pharmaceuticals in Europe - Wednesday 22nd May 2013, Brussels

Dear Mr Frontini,

I would like to invite you to join a discussion on sustainable financing approaches for pharmaceuticals on **Wednesday 22nd May 2013 from 12.00-14.30 in Fipra's Offices** (227, Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, near Rond Point Schuman).

Following your insightful presentation on 'Medicines Shortages in the EU' during EPSA's annual reception in February this year and given the relevance of this topic to the work of pharmacists, I believe your participation in this discussion would be highly valuable.

The May discussion is part of a series of informal stakeholder discussions that I have chaired over the past year and are held under Chatham House Rules. On the initiative of Jo de Cock, CEO of INAMI, an informal stakeholder group was set up in late 2011 in order to explore more flexible and differentiated approaches to pricing in the EU to ensure access to innovative medicines for unmet medical need. This stems from the work, which was undertaken under the Belgian EU Presidency, which adopted [Council Conclusions on "Innovation and Solidarity in Pharmaceuticals"](#) in December 2010. In the Conclusions, Member States committed themselves to "*exchanging information and experience on exceptional procedures aiming to improve early access and on procedures and methods used to allow access to specific indications in situations of unmet medical needs*".

The group has sought to develop pragmatic approaches which could allow for more flexible and differentiated approaches to pricing in the EU. Participants in the discussion have included representatives from other Member States including health attaches based in Brussels from Lithuania and Ireland, representatives from pricing authorities including Stanislav Primozic (Slovenian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices), and representatives from leading European Patient groups - to date this has included Nikos Dedes (European Aids Treatment Group), Luis Mendao (Positive People Portugal), Nicola Bedlington (European Patient Forum), Yann le Cam (Eurordis) and Stanimir Hasurdijiev (National Patient Organisation). In addition representatives from industry, including EFPIA, as well as representatives from the European Commission also join the debate.

Pricing is a Member State competence and will remain so. As you are well aware, in the face of the current economic crisis facing Europe and the

austerity measures affecting many Member States, the issue of access and affordability of medicines is increasingly relevant. The time is fast approaching for concerned parties to look critically at current pricing approaches to see if these are still fit for purpose in a challenging environment that seeks affordability for governments and innovation for patients whilst being sufficiently adaptable to pharmaceutical innovation and technological change.

We very much hope you can join us - Please confirm your attendance by 8th of May and we will send you the relevant background documents. My colleague Helena Real (helena.real@fipra.com Tel: 0032 2 613 2817) could give you a short call to brief you in more detail about the work that the group has undertaken until now, if you would find that helpful. In that case, would it be possible for you to send us your contact details?

With my best wishes,

John

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