

Press release – Brussels, 2 March 2017

For access to medicines based on quality, transparency and subsidiarity principles

The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) **welcomes the adoption** of the initiative report of the Member of the European Parliament, Soledad Cabezón-Ruiz on “EU options for improving access to medicines”.

ESIP supports the aim of the report which is to fundamentally re-think the legislation and transparency in the field of pharmaceuticals in the European Union. Research and development policy should not only pursue commercial interests; it has to meet the public health needs of Member States. We call for the European Union to **implement a transparent and fair pharmaceutical policy** while **respecting the national competencies**.

Furthermore, we call on the European Commission to set up strong rules to guarantee **safety and efficacy in any fast-track approval process for new drugs**. We also ask the Commission to ensure that such approvals are made possible only in exceptional circumstances.

We deeply regret the adoption of amendment 4 which calls on the European Commission to legislate regarding the Health Technology Assessment (HTA): “ESIP **supports the European cooperation on HTA** as far as this cooperation is **not binding for national pricing and reimbursement procedures**. It is imperative that the European Union respects the competencies of the Member States in these areas”, stresses Arnaud Emériaux, President of ESIP.

Finally, ESIP urges the European Commission to ensure that the **national statutory social security organisations are fully involved** in future discussions related to health and pharmaceutical policy. Payers have a key role to play in maintaining and ensuring the access of all insured persons to affordable and high-quality healthcare, including medicines.

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