

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
B - 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 2 October 2009

Open letter to President Barroso

Re: Governance change needed : EU pharma and medical devices policy should be in the portfolio of the Commissioner in charge of health

Dear President,

We would like to congratulate you on your re-appointment as President of the European Commission. In the coming weeks you have to shape the portfolios for the new College of Commissioners, providing the opportunity to review the way that specific policy areas are managed.

We strongly invite you to **re-consider the way that pharmaceutical and medical devices policy is approached within the European Commission**. We sincerely request you to make health the main driver for pharmaceutical and medical devices policy at EU level by **giving the lead role on pharmaceutical and medical devices policies to the Commissioner in charge of health**.

Pharmaceutical and medical devices policy is an integral part of public health policy-making. **Putting EU citizens' needs and concerns first and safeguarding social protection and social cohesion** should be among the European Commission's top priorities. 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.**

Our request would better align EU methods with Member States: across the EU, Ministers of Health manage pharmaceutical policy. On the contrary, within the European Commission this competence has a lead from DG Enterprise. Now is the opportunity for the European Commission to align its policy framework with the frameworks of its Member States and their citizens. We count on you to make this happen!

Apart from this urgent opportunity arising from the rearrangement of portfolios, there are other key topics on which the position of a number of Commission Directorates will be important to AIM: the patient mobility Directive, the pharmaceutical package, social and health 'services of general interest', cooperation policy, intergenerational solidarity, long term care, health professionals, European Mutual Society Statute. We very much look forward to further opportunities for constructive dialogue with Commission services.

Yours sincerely,



Willi Budde
AIM President

The Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) represents national federations of private, but not-for profit healthcare funders.

The 'Association Internationale de la Mutualité' (International Association of Mutual benefit societies) (AIM), brings together 42 national federations of autonomous health insurance and social protection bodies in 27 countries. All these organizations operate according to the principles of solidarity and not-for-profit orientation.

In Europe, they provide coverage against sickness and other social welfare risks to more than 140 million people, either by participating directly in the management of compulsory health insurance, by providing voluntary health insurance or by delivering health care and social services directly through their own facilities.

AIM's goal is to defend and promote, at international and European level, the social values and basic principles shared by its members: access to health care as a fundamental right, solidarity and non-exclusion as essential means to ensure this access to quality health care for all, irrespective of health status or financial capacity to pay; and non-profit orientation. All these values are guiding principles for health insurance based upon the needs of citizens.



ANMC - Belgium
► 4,5 million EU citizens



UMP - Portugal
► 0,850 million EU citizens



UNMN - Belgium
► 0,450 million EU citizens



BKK - Germany
► 10 million EU citizens



IKK - Germany
► 3 million EU citizens



Benenden - UK
► 0,950 million EU citizens



LSV - Germany
► 0,850 million EU citizens



Zorgverzekeraars Nederland
The Netherlands
► 16 million EU citizens



MLOZ - Belgium
► 1.9 million EU citizens



FIMIV - Italy
► 0,6 million EU citizens



OATYE - Greece
► 0,1 million EU citizens



Knappschaft - Germany
► 1,7 million EU citizens



FNMF - France
► 38 million EU citizens



Santésuisse - Switzerland
► 7,2 million citizens



VZAJEMNA
zdravstvena zavarovalnica, d.v.z.

Vzajemna - Slovenia
► 0,9 million EU citizens



SZP - Czech Republic
► 3,8 million EU citizens



VZP - Czech Republic
► 6,2 million EU citizens



UNML - Belgium
► 0,580 million EU citizens



VHI - Ireland
► 1,55 million EU citizens



VZP - Slovak Republic
► 2,9 million EU citizens



vdek - Germany
► 24 million EU citizens



BUPA - UK
► 4,1 EU citizens



UNMS - Belgium
► 3 million EU citizens



MSA - France
► 4 million EU citizens
