

A call on EU countries to ensure access to affordable medicines

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The high cost of innovative medicines often puts them out of reach, exacerbating access disparities across Europe and putting the sustainability of healthcare systems at risk.

When negotiating the EU Pharma Package, governments across the European Union must seize this key opportunity to improve affordable access to safe and effective medicines for all patients and consumers. As the public debate is placing a greater focus on industry competitiveness and strategic autonomy, we would like to recall that pharmaceutical policies must be primarily patient-centred and demand-driven. **As such, the health, well-being, and ability for patients to access the products and services they need at affordable prices should remain the central concern.**

To achieve this, we call on EU member states to:

- **Reduce the baseline regulatory data protection (RDP) period**, currently set at 8 years, to allow for earlier entry of generics and biosimilars into the market, saving European health systems approximately €1.13 billion annually¹.
- **Set up a modulated system of incentives** allowing additional periods of RDP to reward efforts from the European pharmaceutical sector that bring high societal and healthcare value, **with a cap of 8 years**.
- **Improve availability and affordability of medicines in all EU countries**, promoting competition and reducing access disparities.

This approach would strike a fair balance between supporting pharmaceutical innovation that addresses societal needs and promoting affordable access for patients in Europe as well as sustainable healthcare systems.

¹ Impact assessment report accompanying the revision of the general pharmaceutical legislation SWD (2023) 192 final.

Signatures:

The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM)

The [Association of European Cancer Leagues \(ECL\)](#) is a non-profit, pan-European umbrella organisation of national and regional cancer societies. ECL provides an exclusive platform for members to collaborate with their international peers, primarily in the areas of cancer prevention, access to medicines and patient support, and creates opportunities to advocate for these issues at the EU level. Transparency registry no: 19265592757-25

The [European Consumer Organisation \(BEUC\)](#) is the umbrella group for 44 independent consumer organisations from 31 countries.

The [International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies \(AIM\)](#) is a global network for equitable health and social care. AIM serves as the umbrella organisation for federations of health mutuals and statutory and complementary health insurance bodies. The work of AIM's members is based on solidarity, not for profit work and democracy across Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. AIM advocates for equal access to health and care, fair pricing of medicines, a digitalisation that serves the insured, the integration of health in all policies and a stronger focus on prevention.