

EPF Regional Advocacy Seminar
Bucharest, 27 October 2011



**EU level cooperation between patients
and pharmacists**

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EU Pharmacovigilance legislation

- Published on 31 December 2010 – into force by July 2012
- Comprises a Directive (2010/84) and Regulation (1235/2010); Directive will need to be transposed into Member States' national laws.
 - Direct patient reporting across the EU
 - One single point of collection for medicines safety data at EU level – the Eudravigilance database
 - Improvements to information on medicines' packaging and leaflet
 - Member States set up national medicines web-portals
 - Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee, with representatives of patients and health professionals

Why EPF & PGEU cooperated

- Medicines safety = everybody's business!
- EPF and PGEU represent some of the main stakeholders affected by the new rules
- Key areas of mutual interest:
 - Role of pharmacists in reporting is under-recognised, needs clearer framework
 - Key role played by pharmacists in the medication "chain" vis-à-vis patients and doctors
 - Patient-centred healthcare – the healthcare team
 - Health literacy is key from the patients' and professionals' perspective

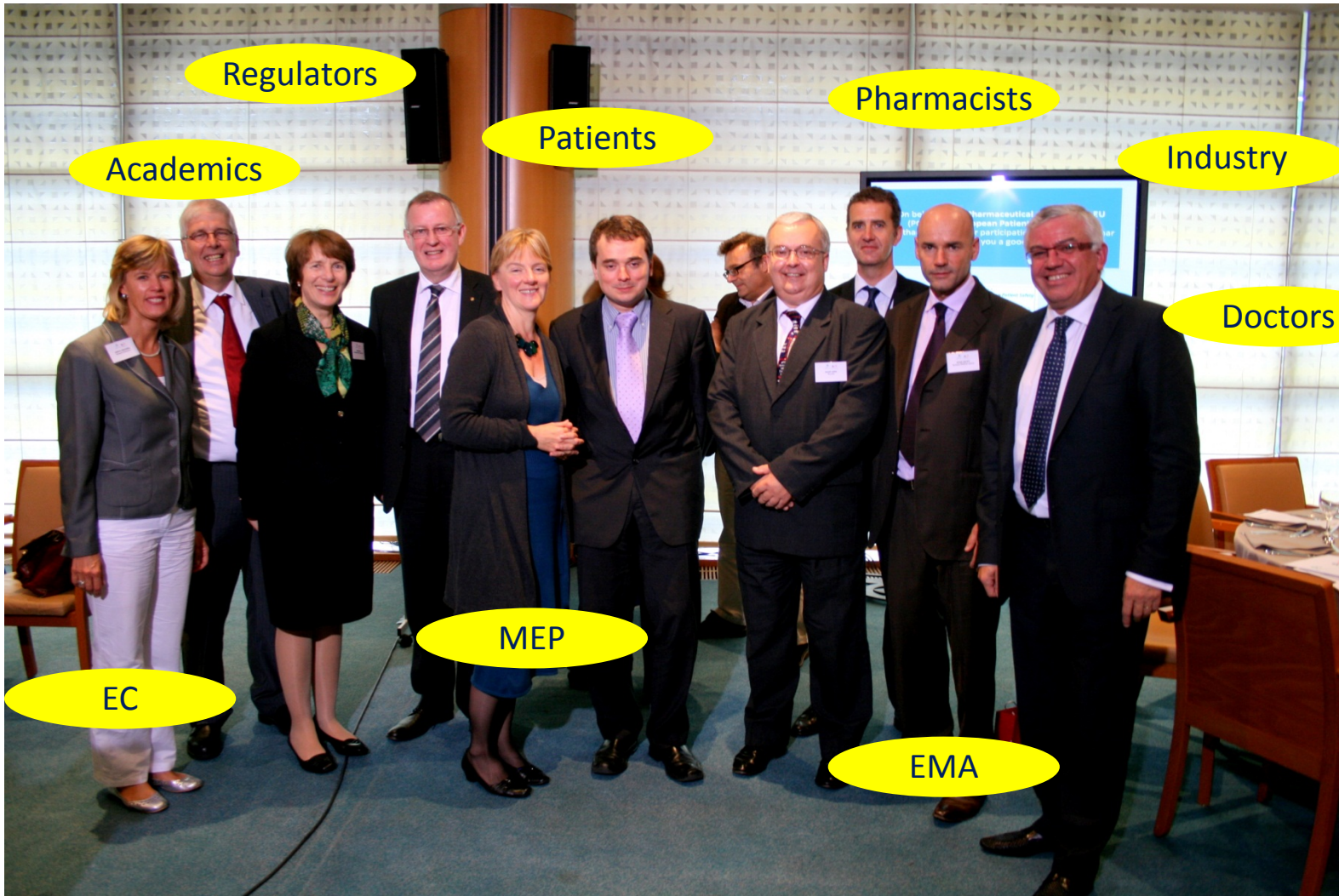


How did we cooperate?

EPF and PGEU did not put out a joint position – but.....

- We **liaised closely** throughout the process, exchanging views
- We organised a **joint event** at the European Parliament (September 2010) on the eve of the plenary vote on the legislative proposals
 - to raise awareness and highlight opportunities for all parties
 - to put forward our positions – focus on pharmacists' role, direct patient reporting, the importance of cooperation
 - Report and PR widely circulated after the event – available at www.eu-patient.eu/Events/ and www.pgeu.eu






Challenges in cooperation

- Sometimes divergent views and interests
- Disparities in resources
- Traditional views of patients, particularly in scientific matters
- But PGEU-EPF cooperation has shown the opposite is possible!
- Health literacy is vital – the “health literate patient” & the “patient-literate professional”
- Need to take a *long-term view* of collaboration, built on trust and mutual respect



Benefits: what we have achieved

- Better-informed position through liaison at policy level
 - Providing expertise on specific issues and practical experiences – patients are also experts
 - Stronger visibility and credibility vis-à-vis decision-makers through joint positioning, events – a “united front”
 - Tangible expression of “patient-centred disease management” and “patients as co-decision-makers in their care”
 - Establishing and nurturing a relationship of trust is vital
 - Identifying future possibilities for cooperation: adherence, ePrescriptions, falsified medicines, internet sales, patient information...
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Conclusions – the next steps

- Cooperation is *needed* to realise patient-centred healthcare – and all parties can *benefit* from it
- At EU level, patients are recognised as an important stakeholder group whose views should be taken into account – and whose input can actually make for better policy and programmes
- At national level, cooperation is essential to achieve a good implementation of EU Directives – this is good for patients as well as health professionals and the health systems.
- Explore the possibilities, challenges and solutions – identify common interests – for effective advocacy



More information:
www.eu-patient.eu/initiatives-policy/policy

THANK YOU !

