

Brussels, 20 May 2008

Mr Lee McGill  
European Commission  
Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-  
General  
[Lee.mcgill@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Lee.mcgill@ec.europa.eu)

Re: European Patients' Forum response regarding the Open Consultation on Patient Safety in the European Union

Dear Mr McGill,

We would like to thank the European Commission for launching the public consultation on patient safety in the European Union. We welcome this opportunity to express our patients' constituency's views on such an important issue.

However, there are a number of key points we would like to highlight in relation to the consultation structure:

- As a pan-European patient organization - representing 35 European disease-specific patients' organizations and national coalitions of patients' organizations - we have responded rather to those questions that have a European policy dimension.
- We found that most of the questions were tailored to Member States authorities (ex. "How important is... in your country?"; "Which organization do you think should be responsible for...?") This went beyond our remit and we found regrettable that little space was provided for patients organizations, be it European, national or regional, to address the specificity of their own constituency.
- We found also difficult ranking on a scale issues that, from our perspective, are ALL important in a systemic approach to improve patients' safety (for example the types of adverse events (Question 11) or the essential components of a patient safety strategy (Question 12)).

Finally, we make a plea for a meaningful involvement of patients' organizations in further consultations processes that should provide an easier to answer and a more flexible format.

We would like to thank you again for this opportunity to input and remain at your disposal for any further information that you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Olauson  
EPF President



Nicola Bedlington  
EPF Director



The European Patients Forum was founded in 2003 to become the collective patients' voice at EU level, manifesting the solidarity, power and unity of emerging EU patients' movement. It currently represents 35 European member organizations which are representative of around 150 million patients across EU. EPF facilitates exchange of good practice and challenging of bad practice on patients' rights, equitable access to treatment and care and health-related quality of life between patients organizations at European level and at Member States level. Our vision is a high quality, patient-centered healthcare across EU.