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**PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE ESSENTIAL IN PRICING AND REIMBURSEMENT MECHANISMS**

**BRUSSELS, 17 June 2016 – The European Patients' Forum's verdict on the Council conclusions on the pharmaceutical system in the EU and its Member States.**

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The Council of the European Union adopted today its conclusions on strengthening the balance in the pharmaceutical system of the EU and its Member States. **The European Patients' Forum (EPF) welcomes the call for closer cooperation between Member States, but regrets the lack of commitment towards the involvement of patients in the whole pricing and assessment process.**

EPF believes it is high time for a new, collaborative mind-set, involving early dialogue between all of the stakeholders at EU level, including patients, from the earliest stages of medicines research and development. This will help identify the right priorities, anticipated benefits and value, resulting in better outcomes for Europe's patients and Europe's health systems.

As mentioned in our [statement](#) on value and pricing of medicines, patients should be recognised as **the** most important stakeholder group in medicines pricing and value assessment, and the patients' perspective should be at the heart of every decision.

The invitation from the Council for a closer cooperation between Member States in HTA processes, joint horizon scanning or in joint price negotiation is a way forward, and EPF salutes the initiative from the several Member States that are already taking this path. However, such processes cannot be complete without the true involvement of patients. EPF therefore calls for frameworks and methodologies to be developed for meaningfully incorporating patient evidence at all stages, from early dialogue to HTA and pricing and reimbursement decisions.

We also welcome the call for more continuity between the EU Presidencies to drive this forward and look forward to our continued collaboration in this regard.

Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General said today *"The Council conclusions go in the right direction, but we need stronger commitment from policy makers towards a new system based on the patients' perspective. Only a coherent framework for fair access can maximise societal benefit and patient access whilst avoiding untenable impacts on healthcare budgets"*.

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The **European Patients' Forum (EPF)** was founded in 2003 to ensure that the patients' community drives policies and programmes that affect patients' lives to bring changes empowering them to be equal citizens in the EU.

EPF currently represents 67 members, which are national coalitions of patients organisations and disease-specific patient organisations working at European level, and. EPF reflects the voice of an estimated 150 million patients affected by various chronic diseases throughout Europe.

EPF's vision for the future is that all patients with chronic and/or lifelong conditions in the EU have access to high quality, patient-centred equitable health and social care.

The EPF strategic goals focus on areas such as health literacy, healthcare design and delivery, patient involvement, patient empowerment, sustainable patients' organisations and non-discrimination.

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This press release received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020).

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