



europeanpatients'forum

9 May 2008

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) was founded in 2003 to become the collective patients' voice at EU level, manifesting the solidarity, power and unity of the EU patients' movement. EPF currently represents 35 member organisations – which are chronic disease-specific patients' organisations operating at European level, and national coalitions of patients organisations throughout the Member States. EPF reflects the voice of an estimated 150 million patients affected by various diseases in the European Union, and their families.

EPF's vision for the future is patient-centred, equitable healthcare throughout the European level.

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 patient organisations at European level and at Member States level.

The issue of counterfeit medicines across the European Union and the ensuing risks and patient safety and equity implications for patients is a key concern for us, and in this regard, we were very pleased that Commission launched its consultation on a legal proposal to combat the counterfeiting of medicines for human use.

EPF works closely with the International Alliance of Patients Organizations, IAPO, which has undertaken significant work at international level regarding the growing problem of counterfeit medicines, particularly through the International Medical Products Alliance for Patients Safety (IMPACT).

We have commented on IAPO's response to the consultation and with this note, would like to confirm that EPF supports this response (see attached) from an EU patients' perspective.

Both our organisations have identified very clearly the role and contribution that patients themselves can potentially make with regard to vigilance towards potentially unsafe medicines and would highlight the need to involve patient organisations alongside other stakeholders regarding future strategies linked to the implementation of regulatory measures.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours Faithfully,

Anders Olafsson
President
European Patients' Forum

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