



Ulla Närhi

European Commission; DG Enterprise
& Industry Unit F2 "Pharmaceuticals"

ulla.narhi@ec.europa.eu

Unit:

Contact Person:

E-Mail:

Telephone:

Fax:

Ref.No.:

Date:

Ex. Ref.:

BMGFJ - I/B/8 (Kranken- und
Kuranstalten, Arzneimittel-,
Apotheken- und
Medizinproduktrecht; Amtshaftung,
Volksanwaltschaft)

Dr. Christian Kalcher

christian.kalcher@bmgfj.gv.at

+43 (1) 71100-4894

+43 (1) 718 71 83

BMGFJ-91747/0005-I/B/8/2008

10.04.2008

Comments of the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth on the document of the Commission for public consultation "Legal proposal on information to patients"

Dear Mrs Närhi,

please find below the comments of the Federal Ministry of Health, Family and Youth on the Commission`s document for public consultation „Legal proposal on information to patients“:

First of all we want to emphasise that the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth acknowledges the right of the European citizens and patients to have access to comprehensive high quality information on diseases and the treatment by medicinal products and supports all initiatives of the Commissions to improve access to information - also on prescription-only medicines - for the general public.

But in order not to jeopardise public health some indispensable principles should be respected:

- high quality standards for information have to be defined (they can be found in the Commission`s proposals)
- information from the pharmaceutical industry may not be published in mass media like TV, radio and in printed media (news papers, magazines etc.)
- the internet should be a source of information to patients on medicinal products if it is ensured that this happens in a public health framework; under these prerequisites also the

pharmaceutical industry should be entitled to inform about their products even about prescription-only medicinal product

- information from the pharmaceutical industry has to be checked before publication (ex-ante check) by an institution approved by the national health authorities.

The Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth is convinced that – if the basic principles mentioned above are observed - new information channels for diseases and the treatment with medicinal products can be set up and would be beneficial to patients.

The Austrian Health Ministry welcomes also that the Commission is not planning to change the current rules that ban advertising for prescription-only medicines to the general public.

With kind regards
For the Minister:

Dr. Clemens-Martin Auer

signed electronically