

Memorandum of Understanding

Patients' organisations and the pharmaceutical industry, recognising their interdependence, as consumers and producers of pharmaceutical products wish to work together on issues of mutual concern. Health is a shared responsibility that requires the widest dialogue and cooperation between all groups that constitute society.

To this end the patients' organisations and EFPIA will work together within a Think-Tank to:

- form an on-going two-way dialogue between patient representatives and the pharmaceutical industry, having full, frank and open discussions and information sharing
- work towards an increasing understanding within the industry of patients' perspectives and needs, and within patients' organisations of the industry's perspective
- seek mutual understanding between the patients and EFPIA, on EU policy, EU strategies and EU goals

Patients' organisations will not be expected to share all industry's views, nor will industry be expected to agree with patients' organisations in all respects. However, patients' organisations and pharmaceutical companies recognise that on many EU policies, patients and industry may share common interests and work together towards achieving the same policy goals. This must not compromise the others autonomy or prejudicing their right to act independently in areas where there is either no overlap or views differ as to the best course of action for their respective constituencies.

The patients' organisations within the Think-Tank wish to further enhance the mutual benefits of working in partnership with industry and to this end, the patients bring their own unique knowledge on the challenges of living with their particular illnesses, their attitudes, perceptions and expectations.

The patients' organisations will assume responsibility for disseminating the results of the Think-Tank deliberations to the appropriate patient groups. EFPIA will resume the responsibility to distribute the Think-Tank positions throughout its member organisations and companies.

Signed on 17 November 1999 by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, the European Coalition of Positive People, European Patients' Voice, EURORDIS, the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks/Europe and European Cystic Fibrosis Policy Network

Signed on 29 September 2004 by Alzheimer Europe, the European Genetic Alliances' Network, the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform, Euro-Ataxia, the European Haemophilia Consortium, the European Dystonia Federation, the European Federation of Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Associations, HEART EU, Retina Europe, European Parkinson's Disease Association, the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness, and the World Alliance of Neuromuscular Disease Associations/Europe

Signed on 21 September 2006 by the European Cancer Patient Coalition, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations, European Men's Health Forum and the European Patients' Forum

Signed on 19 November 2009 by European Institute of Women's Health, europacoln and Pan European Psoriasis Patients Organization Forum