

RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SFEE

Athens, Friday, 20 March 2015 – Together with the State, with appropriate and timely actions, we can make 2015 a starting year for helping out and empowering citizens and for ensuring equal access of all to health care. During 2014, the public pharmaceutical budget shrank to below €1.9 billion, while public health care expenditure stood at about 4.5% of GDP. These figures fall quite short of what is considered as a minimum by modern European standards.

In order to reverse the decline and dismantling of the Public Health Care system, we need to implement a **comprehensive action plan** geared towards: ensuring the immediate access of all citizens (whether insured or uninsured, rich or poor) to innovative treatments and live-saving medicines; promoting clinical trials in an appropriate setting that respects and rewards innovation; and restoring a stable and predictable business environment that will foster entrepreneurship and cooperation of Greek pharmaceutical companies with multinational players.

Resting on three pillars, i.e. innovation, growth and transparency, this strategy can deliver substantial and measurable results in the years ahead in terms of improving the standard of living in our country.

Key orientations of a new action plan are the following:

1. A realistic level of outpatient **pharmaceutical expenditure** should be set at €2.175 billion for 2015, including expenditure targeted at the uninsured, but, as an essential precondition, net of expenditure on vaccines, as this relates to preventive care, and also net of VAT and the Pensioners' Social Solidarity Benefit (EKAS). Moreover, hospital pharmaceutical expenditure should be raised to EUR 750 million – more specifically, pharmaceutical expenditure should be 40% of total hospital supplies for 2015 and 50% for 2016.
2. **A ceiling should be imposed on clawback, without any further increase in rebates**, so that both can be affordable to companies, which is not the case now. Clawback should not exceed 3% of the annual target for 2015 and should be reduced to zero in 2016. At the same time, the pharmaceutical industry should be required to pay no more than its fair share of such overrun/clawback (at ex-factory prices).
3. The **arrears of the public sector** (EOPPY and Hospitals) to pharmaceutical companies should be managed in a sound manner, starting from this month, with regular payments and without discriminatory treatment between health care providers and pharmaceutical suppliers.

4. **Reforms need to be implemented rapidly**, and we stand ready to work closely with the authorities and the government in order to further rationalize prescribing through the introduction of mandatory therapeutic and diagnostic protocols and patient registers, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the system beyond 2015.
5. Interactions between SFEE member companies and health care professionals are subject to the SFEE Code of Ethics, which along with the Disclosure Code, calls for more transparency; this message is aptly relevant to today's circumstances of crisis in Greece.

Our message to the State is straightforward and clear: Pharmaceutical companies, Greek and foreign, can be a dual force, acting in two complementary ways: a force for economic growth and a force for an active support to the welfare state and public health. By establishing relations of trust with the State, which will lead to realistic decisions, we can provide to the economy and society of our country the support they need for a better future.