

To
the Honourable
Mr. Rovertos Spyropoulos
Director, IKA Social Insurance Institute

cc: Mr. G. Papaconstantinou, Minister of Finance
Mr. A. Loverdos, Minister of Health and Social Solidarity
Mr. G. Koutroumanis, Alternate Minister of Labour and Social Security
Mr. P. Sachinidis, Deputy Minister of Finance
Mr. P. Efthymiou, Parliamentary Spokesperson for PASOK
Mrs. A. Dretta, Secretary General of Social Insurance
Mr. I. Plaskovitis, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance

Halandri, May 12, 2011

Honourable Director,

SFEE would like to express the concern of pharmaceutical companies about the continuing accumulation of debts by IKA hospitals and pharmacies. The problem is aggravating with time, as is apparent in the detailed report we attach herewith and which refers to the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/03/2011.

During the above-mentioned period, IKA hospitals and pharmacies purchased medicinal products worth 341 million euro, of which only 68 million have been paid. In other words, their debts amount to about 274 million, which is about 80%.

The problem has reached a critical point in the current year, as in the first quarter of 2011, IKA hospitals and pharmacies purchased medicinal products worth about 70 million euro, of which only 332 euro have been paid! That is not a typing error.

It is clear that in 2011, IKA has practically declared a "freeze on payments" to pharmaceutical companies. At the same time, the Greek government has initiated the process of incorporating IKA hospitals into the National Health System, which is also facing problems of accumulated debts. This fact exacerbates the uncertainty of pharmaceutical companies that they will be properly paid.

In this light, SFEE asks that IKA reaches an agreement with pharmaceutical companies to offset debts with insurance contributions that the companies are required to pay to the Institute each month.

All the necessary measures must be taken to solve this problem, which sooner or later will lead to shortages of medicinal products.

Respectfully,

Fotis Mangalousis
Director General

Vasilios Niadas
Vice-president

Dionysios Filiotis
President