

To
the Honorable
Mr. Christos Kittas
Minister of Health & Social Solidarity

Cc.: Mr. D. Balassopoulos, Secretary General of Welfare
Mr. Ath. Kotsopoulos, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health
Mr. Ant. Demopoulos, Secretary General for Public Health
Prof. Y. Tountas, EOF President

Halandri, May 24, 2012

Dear Mr. Kittas,

Following yesterday's meeting we would like to point out the following critical for the pharmaceutical industry issues:

1. The situation formed due to the accumulation of public hospitals' debts to the pharmaceutical companies is dramatic, since the total debt will rise by the end of June 2012 to the unbearable amount of **€1 billion**. More specifically, the debts of public hospitals will reach **€850 million** by the end of June 2012, while the debts of the military hospitals for the same period will reach **€150 million** (1/3 out of which concerns unpaid invoices issued during the period 2007 - 2010).

Therefore, in order to achieve the smooth supply of medicines to the extent possible and in order to prevent big market shortages, we ask you to take all the necessary actions so that at least €200 million are paid within the next two weeks to the pharmaceutical companies.

2. The situation becomes even worse due to the refusal of some associate judges of the Court of Auditors to approve the invoices of public hospitals re supply of medicinal products. That refusal has contributed to the accumulation of hospital debts, thereby jeopardizing the viability of many pharmaceutical companies in combination with the other painful economic measures (rebates, claw-back, bonds haircut, etc.).

3. The Price Bulletin with new medicines should be immediately issued, according to the decision of the Pricing Committee of the Ministry of Health on 25/4/12 (please find attached the minutes of the meeting). At this point, we would like to stress out that since 1/1/2011 the price of none new medicine has been determined, thus violating the national and European legislation, which provides that Price Bulletins should be issued every 90 days.

Therefore, we urge you to take all the necessary actions in order to ensure the immediate settlement of the above issues, which will enable the uninterrupted –to the extent that this is possible- supply of medicines, which are necessary for the patients.

Yours faithfully,

Fotis Mangalousis
General Director

Konstantinos M. Frouzis
President