

Mr. Andreas Lykourantzou
Minister of Health
Aristotelous 17-19
10187 Athinaion
Athens – Greece

24 October 2012

Mr. Marios Salmas
Deputy Minister of Health
Aristotelous 17-19
10187 Athinaion
Athens – Greece

Prof. Yannis Tountas
President of EOF
Mesogeion Avenue, 284
15562 Holargos,
Athens - Greece

Ref: RB.RT.mcf/66.180

Dear Ministers,
Dear Prof. Tountas,

Last Friday, October 19, I wrote to you and Mr Stournaras to suggest the entering of a multi-year stability agreement between the Government of Greece and the pharmaceutical industry (EFPIA/SfEE).

I am writing to you again because it has come to my attention that you proceeded with the publication of a price bulletin which contains many errors and in many cases does not respect the relevant legislation in force for the determination of prices of medicines. More precisely, it seems that several medicinal products (on-patent and off-patent) are priced below the average of the 3 lowest prices in the EU. It also wrongly defines many patented medicines as off-patent by using the 10 year regulatory data protection as a proxy for patent protection. This violates the fundamental principle to respect the exclusivity granted by the patent.

I am confident that the above mentioned errors included in the Price Bulletin were not intentional. No branded (on-patent and off-patent) product in Greece should be priced lower than the average of the 3 lowest prices in the EU. I strongly suggest that you immediately – within this week - proceed with the correction of the errors, in order to limit the negative impact through international price referencing and re-exports.

The Industry has demonstrated its willingness to assist the Greek Government in meeting the urgent international obligations it faces for 2012, whilst laying a foundation for ongoing constructive dialogue between us on the healthcare reform. To this end we have already sent you the draft wording for a Letter of Intent, that I hope may be jointly signed by both the Greek Government and the Pharmaceutical Industry, signaling our collective willingness to develop a Framework Agreement for the unhindered delivery of medicines to Greek patients in the coming years, support the country to meet MoU targets and ensure sustainability of pharmaceutical companies in Greece.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller loop and a final stroke that extends to the right.

Richard Bergström

Copy to:

Ms M. Skouroliakou, 1st Vice-President of EOF
Mr. P. Vassilakis, 2nd Vice –President of EOF