

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 16 October 2009
Dr T/let01709

Open letter to President Barroso

Call for transfer of competence for pharmaceutical and medical devices policy to the new Commissioner responsible for Health

Dear President Barroso,

Firstly, we congratulate you on your re-election as President of the European Commission. This appointment clearly recognises the excellent work that you have done over the last five years.

In the coming days you will be defining the portfolios of the new Commissioners, which offers the chance to review the way that specific policy areas are managed within the European Commission. We therefore take this opportunity to call on you to re-consider the approach currently taken to pharmaceutical and medical devices policy in the Institution.

In our opinion the health of the European citizen should be the main driver behind pharmaceutical and medical devices policy at EU level, in particular the legislative and safety aspects of these policies. As such we request that the principal responsibility for these policies in the future is assigned to the new Commissioner in charge of health. Further this reallocation of responsibility within the European Commission would better align an EU approach with that of the Member States where it is the Ministers of Health who manage pharmaceutical policy.

Under the Treaty, EU action must aim to improve public health, prevent human illness and diseases, and identify sources of danger to human health. The latter clearly includes patient safety as regards medicines and medical devices. We believe that these objectives can be best achieved if pharmaceutical and medical devices policy is entrusted to the Directorate General responsible for health

We very much hope that you can support us in this view.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Franz Terwey
President

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About the *European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)*

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NOTE: ESIP members support this position insofar as the subject matter lies within their field of competence (according to the bylaws referring to Article 16 of the ESIP statutes).

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