

AESGP Comments on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health

The Association of the European Self-Medication Industry (AESGP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health (COM/2008/725).

It is today widely recognised that self-care and self-medication play an important role in European health policy. This requires good information and guidance of the European citizens. In this context the European workforce for health plays a key role.

As pointed out in the study for DG Sanco on information needs for medicines¹, medical doctors and pharmacists are recognised as important sources of high quality advice. This is particularly important for new indications and substances in non-prescription medicines. Attention should therefore be paid to adequate training of health professionals in relation to self-care.

A major element of a more proactive policy could be a better integration of self-care related aspects in university and post graduate training of health professionals and in particular pharmacists. To further this process, AESGP has been teaming up with the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacies (EAFP), the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) and the London School of Pharmacy to find better ways of allowing community pharmacists and pharmacy students to assess self-care related competencies and to address potential deficits. Concrete results will be made public in the course of 2009.

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¹ <http://www.aesgp.be/ResearchProject/FinalReport.pdf>

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