



Brussels, 10 January 2011.
ENTR/F/5 CR/vv

NOTE TO THE FILE

**Expert group on Corporate Responsibility in the field of Pharmaceuticals:
Overview of membership selection process**

- The expert process on Corporate Responsibility in the field of Pharmaceuticals was launched by in September 2010 by DG Enterprise and Industry as a multi-stakeholder expert platform to address non-regulatory issues facing the European pharmaceutical sector.¹ It notably provides a continuation to the discussions held in the framework of Pharmaceutical Forum (2005-2008)² in relation to access to medicines.
- The members of the expert group were selected by DG Enterprise in order to represent the broad range of actors involved in the pharmaceutical sector. These include:
 - Member States and EFTA countries;
 - EU representative organisations of the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors, namely: industry associations (EFPIA, EuropaBio, EGA, EASP), wholesalers (GIRP), public health insurers (AIM, ESIP), doctors (CPME), pharmacists (PGEU), hospitals (HOPE), patients (EPF) and consumers (BEUC).
- The composition of the expert group draws upon the experience of the Pharmaceutical Forum (2005-2008), in which all the above stakeholders were already represented – with the exception of consumers and hospitals which have also declared an interest in the present initiative. The representative organisations were informed of the initiative during an briefing session organised in July 2010. Member States and EFTA countries were called upon to participate in the process on several occasions in 2010, in particular during meetings of the authorities responsible for pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement (March-April 2010) and in the Council working group on pharmaceuticals and medical devices (May 2010). The establishment of the expert group was officially announced by Vice-President Tajani during the Conference on

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/healthcare/process_on_corporate_responsibility/index_en.htm

² <http://ec.europa.eu/pharmaforum/>

Innovation and Solidarity in pharmaceuticals organised on 23-24 September 2010 by the Belgian Presidency.³ It was also supported by the Council Conclusions on Innovation and Solidarity adopted on 6 December 2010.⁴

- Each country and stakeholder organisation has been responsible for appointing individual representatives to participate in the activities of the working group. As the activities of the working group develop in 2011-2012, DG Enterprise could also invite relevant NGOs to participate in the meetings (for instance, Médecins Sans Frontières during discussions on access to medicines in Africa).
- It should be stressed finally that DG Enterprise stands ready to examine any additional request to join the working group if it appears that other organisations have a stake in the discussions.

Contacts: Ms. Giulia Del Brenna, Head of Unit - DG Enterprise F/5
Ms. Hilda Juhasz, Policy Officer – DG Enterprise F/5
Mr. Christophe Roeland, Policy Officer – DG Enterprise F/5

³

http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Aboutus/eutrio/health/Innovation_and_Solidarity/index.htm?fo_dnlang=en

⁴ See <http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/118278.pdf>, point 22.