

Why launch the European Life Science Circle?

Europe has some strong assets as being world's "bio-zone". But to keep up with global development it must work on its strategy.

Politics has to underline this with a modern legal framework. The idea to create the ELSC was born after the launch of the Pharmaceutical Forum.

This forum only meets once a year and apart from the meetings of its working groups, whose membership is restricted to a small number of participants, there hardly is any other possibility to debate these issues.

The ELSC offers the opportunity to shape the debates about the above-mentioned framework, including those who are not members of the Pharmaceutical Forum, giving them the chance to influence the discussions and be part of a bigger "whole".

Format

The ELSC meets at least four times a year. Key-note speakers shall intervene each meeting while the discussions shall be moderated by the European Parliamentarian, Dr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, member of the Pharmaceutical Forum.

The audience will have the opportunity to take part in the discussion.

Participants

- MEPs
- high-ranking officials of the European Commission and Council of Ministers
- interest groups, particularly patients associations
- industry representatives, particularly from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.

Initiator

Dr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, MEP
 European Parliament
 ASP 10 G 116
 60, rue Wiertz
 B-1047 Brussels
 phone: 0032 2 28 45 149
 fax: 0032 2 28 49 149
jorgo.chatzimarkakis@europarl.europa.eu
www.chatzi.de



BRUSSELS
17 April 2007
17:30 – 19:30
Conference and discussion
19:30
Walking dinner/Get together

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 of Research-Based
 Pharmaceutical Companies

Pharmaceuticals and the Future of Cost-Benefit Assessment in the EU

The health budgets of EU Member States have been under pressure for years. The reaction of Member State governments was cost containment measures which lowered profits of European pharmaceutical companies in their home markets. However, less profit also resulted in less international competitiveness. At the same time, the U.S. became much more important as a location for R&D in comparison to Europe, because companies moved their activities to where a higher reward for innovation could be expected.

Now cost-benefit assessment is becoming increasingly popular in Europe. More and more Member States establish national institutes for this purpose. But methodological approaches are not the same everywhere. Theoretically, one national institute can prove the usefulness of a drug while another proves the opposite. The consequence: Reimbursement is possible in one Member State and not possible in another. This is completely inconsistent with the idea of a Common Market for pharmaceuticals.

Assessments are based on the same data. Wouldn't it be self-evident to have a European solution considering also that not every Member State can perform high-standard benefit assessments? Or could a centralized procedure for the EU cause too much damage to the European pharmaceutical industry due to inappropriate decisions?

The situation is even more complex when it comes to cost decisions. The answer to the question of whether the prescription of a drug to a patient is cost-effective or not is not just economic in nature but also has ethical considerations. If cost decisions are made at the national level, this will again lead to disparities regarding the supply of innovative medicines in the EU. Some Member States will probably emphasize economic aspects while others will focus on ethical issues when making their cost decisions.

Will cost-benefit assessment in Europe therefore worsen the situation of the European pharmaceutical industry by fragmenting the European market even more? Will it be the appropriate instrument for necessary cost containment? Or can it be – quite the contrary – a means to reward innovation?

Pharmaceuticals and the Future of Cost-Benefit Assessment in the EU

Location: Sofitel, Brussels, 1 place Jourdan, 1040 Brussels

Date: Wednesday 17 April 2007

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| 17:30 | Opening Speech
Dr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, MEP |
| 17:40 | IQWiG: Benefit Assessment in Germany and the European Context
Prof. Dr. Peter Sawicki, IQWiG |
| 17:55 | NICE and its Methodology – an International Benchmark for Cost-Benefit Assessment?
Prof. Sir Michael Rawlins, NICE |
| 18:10 | Cost-Benefit Assessment – Industry's Perspective
Dr. Steffen Wahler, VFA |
| 18:25 | The High Level Pharmaceutical Forum: The Future and the Perspectives of Cost-Benefit Assessment in the European Union
Philippe Brunet, Cabinet of Commissioner Kyrianiou |
| 18:40 | Discussion |
| 19:30 | Walking Dinner/Get Together |