

socialplatform

To whom it concerns

Open Letter

July 21, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Governance change needed: EU pharmaceutical policy should be the responsibility of a health focussed directorate within the European Commission.

This is a year of change for the EU institutions. A new Parliament, Commission and possibly a new Treaty. This is an opportunity to review the way that specific policy areas are managed.

As the preparations are being made to shape the new College of Commissioners, Social Platform, a leading alliance of 42 pan-European networks of social civil society organisations calls on the President of the European Commission and Member States to give the responsibility for medicines to a health focussed directorate within the European Commission.

Pharmaceutical policy is an integral part of public health policy-making. In Europe, medicines financing are usually based on solidarity mechanisms to ensure an equal access for all.

Putting the needs of EU citizens first should be the European Commission's number one priority. The Commission, as the guardian of the Treaty, should recognise the duty to *"ensure a high level of human health protection"*. This can only be achieved if public health concerns, social cohesion, sustainability of public finance, protection of patients and safety of medicines are ensured by the DG with responsibility for health.

Aligning EU methods with Member States. Across the EU, Ministers of Health are in charge of pharmaceutical policy and yet, at EU level, this is dealt with by DG Enterprise. Now is the time for Europe to align its policy framework with those of its Member States and their citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Conny Reuter
President



Roshan Di Puppo
Director