

A FAIR DIAGNOSIS BUT WILL THE TREATMENT MATCH ?
AIM's reaction to the Pharmaceutical Strategy roadmap publication

The European Commission has published the roadmap to the European Pharmaceutical Strategy. AIM, the leading international umbrella organisation of health mutuals and not-for-profit healthcare payers has read the concise document with interest and comes up with the following set of recommendations and principles for the remainder of the adoption of the plan.

A roadmap that is fair on the diagnosis

AIM shares the views of the European Commission on the state that the pharmaceutical markets in Europe are in. There is unequal access to medicines across the EU especially for “small” markets that have long been underserved. We subscribe that the critical question of supply and shortages of medicines was further worsened by the COVID-19 crisis. We agree that urgent structural solutions have to be found. What is more, public health needs and innovation efforts from companies need to be better aligned. AIM is convinced that it is necessary to discuss how to best integrate real-world data on the regulatory and decision-making system. We also see a challenge arising from the ecological impact of the pharmaceutical sector.

A pharmaceutical strategy is first and foremost a public health strategy

AIM believes that the European pharmaceutical strategy is first and foremost a public health strategy. It must be a strategy that shapes a pharmaceutical industry for better public health in Europe. Medicines and devices need to be of high quality, be accessible to all patients and be considered as public goods. The prices of these medicines must not endanger the sustainability of health budgets and need to reflect a measurable added therapeutic value. AIM's concrete [proposal to reach fair medicines prices in the EU](#) reconciles access for patients and health systems across Europe, compensates for costs and incentivizes therapeutically-relevant innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. It offers certainty and stability for the pharmaceutical sector while allowing access to all. The European pharmaceutical strategy needs to be future-proof and guarantee that developments in evidence generation, such as those coming from real-world data, or artificial intelligence, deliver meaningful information to decision-makers, [in an ecosystem of trust](#).

Expertise and collaboration will be key for a future European pharmaceutical strategy

The challenges that the European Commission sets out to address as part of its future strategy are far-reaching. What is at stake is the ability of Europe to shape a pharmaceutical sector that delivers now and in the future on the value of better public health, sustainability and solidarity, on which European health systems are based. The ambitions of the European Commission as set out in the Roadmap are high. The responses to these challenges could represent a significant shift in how pharmaceutical markets and health systems work today. The European

Commission needs to ensure expertise, clear-sight and resolve all along the way from diagnosis to action. Thorough, as well as transparent discussions with all stakeholders at European but of course also at national level will allow to find and implement the appropriate responses for health systems in Europe. AIM stands ready to contribute to the discussions.



AIM

Healthcare and
social benefits
for all

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) is an international umbrella organisation of federations of health mutuals and other not-for-profit healthcare payers. It has 57 members from 30 countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. 33 of its members, from 20 countries, are based in the European Union. AIM members provide compulsory and/or supplementary health coverage to around 240 million people around the world, including close to 200 million people in Europe, on a not-for-profit basis. Some AIM members also manage health and social services. Collectively, they have a turnover of almost €300 billion. AIM members are either mutual or health insurance fund. They are: private or public legal entities; solidarity based; not-for-profit oriented organisations: surpluses are used to benefit the members; democratically-elected members play a role in the governance of the organisation.

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