The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) has launched today its calculator for fair medicines prices in Europe. The calculator transposes AIM's fair pricing model into a policy tool which will help the public, specialists and non-specialists alike, evaluate fair medicines prices and compare them with those currently paid by healthcare systems.

We need a comprehensive, open and transparent debate to reconcile the objectives of supporting access and the sustainability of solidarity-based health systems while allowing for a reasonable profit. A paradigm shift in the way medicines are priced is urgent and AIM is convinced that its calculator for fair medicines prices is part of the solution.

Loek Caubo, AIM President

Fair medicines prices for all
AIM presented the tool at a launch event today gathering more than 100 participants. The calculator is AIM's contribution to European and international efforts to make medicines prices affordable and fair. It was presented and discussed with speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament or European AIM members. Speakers from the World Health Organization (WHO), Africa and Latin America complemented the panel with their global perspective.

A paradigm shift to reconcile access while allowing for a reasonable profit
AIM is convinced that reconciling access, affordability and sustainability of health care systems as well as profit for the industry is possible. The Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, the WHO’s Fair Pricing Forum and Oslo Initiative are relevant opportunities to lead a comprehensive, open and transparent debate on how to best reach this objective. Such a debate must involve all relevant stakeholders including the pharmaceutical industry. We need to come a step closer to completing the Sustainable Development Goal for Better Health and Well Being for all.

Supporting informed choices
A thorough analysis of the impact of fair prices on access to medicines would support informed political choices. AIM continues to call for more transparency on medicines prices and costs structures. The European Commission with Member States, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and WHO need to use the best possible knowledge and develop a robust methodology regarding medicines cost structures, especially for research and development and production.

Applying fair price into the European legal and regulatory framework
A fair pricing model could in the long-term be applied along with the central registration at European Medicines Agency (EMA) level. EMA could be a one stop shop to collect all necessary data to calculate fair medicines prices. The European Commission and HTA bodies could process this data and calculate a fair price. A balanced legislation on Health Technology Assessments (HTA) at EU level will provide the much-needed basis for the appraisal of the added therapeutic value of new medicinal products.

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