

## A SIGNIFICANT HURDLE CLEARED TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AIM REACTS TO THE ENVI COMMITTEE VOTE ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL PACKAGE

AIM welcomes the agreement by the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on 19 March on the pharmaceutical package. AIM is sharing its initial reaction on some key elements of the agreement.

We now call on European institutions to not further extend the durations of regulatory incentives that were part of the ENVI Committee agreement. Incentives protect monopolies of medicinal products and the European Commission found that after 10 years on average, it is generic competition that further drives access to medicinal products.<sup>1</sup> We are however pleased to see that negotiators introduced innovative mechanisms beyond the voucher to secure research into antimicrobials.

We welcome the negotiators' efforts to shed more light on medicinal products' underlying costs, but the data that will be requested is still too limited and will not suffice to reverse the trend of inflationary medicinal products prices that threaten the sustainability of our solidarity-based healthcare systems. AIM's calculator<sup>2, 3</sup> for fair medicines prices in Europe shows that applying R&D transparency across the board could improve medicines' affordability. We therefore call for more action, legislative and non-legislative, to improve the transparency of R&D and make this ambition a reality.

For AIM, the number of procedures whereby regulators lower the quality of the data needed for initial marketing authorisation is still a source of much concern. Speeding up the approval of medicines is sometimes justified to fulfil a public health need. However, we would like to reassert that insufficient clinical data in pricing and reimbursement dossiers are a factor conducive to uncertainty and therefore delays in access. While we acknowledge the introduction of control mechanisms for many of these procedures in the agreed text, we warn against the tendency to make exceptional regulatory procedures the new normal regulatory procedures.

*"We congratulate negotiators on this agreement which paves the way for the adoption of the European Parliament's position. There is still a long way to go until full adoption and AIM is looking forward to continuing to contribute to the adoption of a legislation that will benefit access to affordable and quality medicines."*

*Sibylle Reichert, AIM Executive Director*



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 49 members from 26 countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. AIM members provide compulsory/and/or supplementary health coverage to around 230 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. Members are either mutual or health insurance fund. They are private or public legal entities; solidarity based; not-for-profit orientations: surpluses are used to benefit the members; democratically elected members play a role in the governance of the organisation.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission Impact Assessment on the pharmaceutical legislation, p 39 - 40  
[https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/027a1084-0540-4bb6-b669-aa6cf3887684\\_en?filename=swd\\_2023\\_192\\_1\\_ia\\_en.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/027a1084-0540-4bb6-b669-aa6cf3887684_en?filename=swd_2023_192_1_ia_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> European Fair Price Calculator for Medicines, AIM, 2021: <https://fairpricingcalculator.eu/>

<sup>3</sup> AIM Offers a Tool to Calculate Fair and Transparent European Prices for Accessible Pharmaceutical Innovations, AIM, 2019:  
[https://www.aim-mutual.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AIMs-fair-pricing-model-Accompanying-paper-to-the-fair-pricing-calculator\\_June2021.pdf](https://www.aim-mutual.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AIMs-fair-pricing-model-Accompanying-paper-to-the-fair-pricing-calculator_June2021.pdf)