

## ROMANIA JOINS THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PHARMACY CHAINS AS ITS FOURTH MEMBER

The Association of Pharmaceutical Distributors and Retailers in Romania (ADRFR) joined the European Federation of Pharmacy Chains (EFPC) as a new member in July 2019. A resolution to that effect was adopted by the EFPC's members during their assembly held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The EFPC now comprises pharmacy chain associations from four European countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and the new arrival Romania. Overall, the EFPC represents more than 2,500 pharmacies and 13,700 specialists in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Prague, 1 October 2019** – The ADRFR represents over 1,250 pharmacies and 6,200 pharmacy professionals, which translates into 13% of the entire pharmaceutical market in Romania. The new member has been welcomed by the EFPC's Executive Director Zdeněk Blahuta, "*Romania has now joined our ranks after being an observer for approximately one year*". Romania saw the EFPC joining as a beneficial undertaking.

As an EFPC member, the ADRFR wants to focus on such areas as conformity to professional standards and ethical principles, particularly those relating to the process of dispensing medicinal products. According to ADRFR representative Catalina Pinteá, this issue is of fundamental importance, especially in Eastern Europe.

*"We believe that the roles of the physician and the pharmacist are deeply rooted in Europe from the historical, cultural, and purely practical and safety viewpoints. The "four - eyes" rule during the dispensing process plays an irreplaceable role,"* Pinteá said adding, *"Any illegal dispensing of pharmaceuticals or circumventing either of these two professions puts in danger the availability and quality of European pharmacy care as a whole."*

On the occasion of the ADRFR's joining of the EFPC, members issued a statement in which they clearly voice their opposition to illicit dispensing practices and their determination to fight these practices.

*"Upon joining the EFPC, the Romanian association has defined another issue in the European pharmacy sector that needs to be dealt with and opposed. I am pleased that the ADRFR's membership in the EFPC has confirmed that cooperation among national associations is of fundamental importance in the context of the entire European pharmacy sector,"* said Chairman of the EFPC's Executive Committee Daniel Horák.

The ADRFR's goal is to join other members of the European Federation of Pharmacy Chains in protecting the interests of patients in Europe and the interests of specialists in all segments of the pharmacy sector and to continually improve their training and expertise.

Zdeněk Blahuta  
Executive Director

---

*The **European Federation of Pharmacy Chains (EFPC)** is the only organization representing pharmacy chains in Europe. The EFPC is an independent, voluntary, and non-governmental organization that cooperates with and promotes partnerships among national European associations in dealing with key issues relating to the pharmacy sector.*