

October 19th, 2022, Warsaw, Poland

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Stella Kyriakides
Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE NEED OF INCLUSION OF PHARMACY SECTOR INTO EU4HEALTH INITIATIVE

We, representatives of the European pharmaceutical chains associated under the EFPC call on the European institutions to include the European pharmacy sector in the EU4Health initiative. The sector has proven to be one of the key sectors in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, offering patients testing, vaccination and first-contact advice – on time, close to patients' homes and without access problems.

In order to promote public health values across all Member States, the EU4Health should not forget about the great potential of pharmacies as an indispensable component of healthcare systems in Europe. We offer assistance and support to patients twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We are changing and growing rapidly, offering patients not only dispensing medicines, but also advanced new pharmacy services, such as education and health promotion, assistance in disease prevention and early diagnosis, support in addiction treatment, drug reviews, prevention of poly-pharmacy, learning to use medical equipment, and drug delivery. Additionally, during last years European pharmacies has offered millions of doses of vaccines, not only against coronavirus, but also influenza and other diseases. This trend has been strong for years in Western European countries, and is now gaining strength also in Central European pharmacies, represented by members of our organization. The sector should be able to develop in all Member States, offering services that will ease the burden on national health systems.

We urge the EU4Health Initiative to consider all this, and in consequence to give European pharmacies their rightful place in this important initiative.



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