



Health Action International (HAI) is an independent, global network, working to increase access to essential medicines and improve their rational use through research excellence and evidence-based advocacy.

HAI Europe Statement

European medicines' policy where it belongs

30 November 2009- We welcome the news confirmed at the end of last week that [pharmaceutical products and medical devices will be moved](#) from the competence of Directorate-General (DG) Enterprise and Industry to the health and consumer-focused, DG SANCO in the new European Commission.

Whilst European Union (EU) Member States deal with medicines as part of their Ministries of Health, the previous EU Commission structure was out of synch; approaching medicines' policy from the perspective of European industry. As medicines are intrinsically linked to public health rather than purely commercial goals, this was a peculiar environment in which to position pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

HAI Europe Coordinator, Teresa Alves says, "This significant move, which HAI has supported for more than a decade, has been a long-time in coming and we hope that it signals a shift toward rational medicines' policies that put patients and consumers at the heart of European policymaking on pharmaceuticals."

DG SANCO should embrace this new authority to guide changes in medicines' policy for such an important portfolio and set out a confident plan for sound policies that meet real public health needs in the European Union.

The HAI Europe network will continue to work to ensure that public health interests prevail in decision-making that affects the health and well-being of EU citizens.

Health Action International (Europe)

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