



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

18 March 2011

All eyes are on the European Union (EU)-India trade agreement, and the repercussions it will have on access to medicines in India and for the developing countries that rely on Indian-produced generic medicines.

At the same time, the EU is in the process of negotiating other trade agreements that could harm or hinder access to medicines, such as this week's negotiations between the EU and the Mercosur countries.

The negotiating positions of Mercosur countries will almost certainly be affected by how India reacts to the EU's push for new heights of intellectual property (IP) standards. Indian resistance to EU demands for over-reaching IP standards will be crucial for the protection of health and development far beyond its own borders.

EU proposals for IP provisions on data exclusivity, patent extensions, IP enforcement, and in particular, border measures can have disastrous effects on access to medicines; weakening competition from generic medicines and sustaining monopoly prices.

HAI Europe will be closely monitoring the progress of the EU-India and the EU-Mercosur talks to ensure that access to medicines is not trumped by trade.

### Health Action International (Europe)

For more information please visit <http://haieurope.org/work-areas/access-to-essential-medicines-2/eu-ftas-access-to-medicines/>



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