



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ophélie Spanneut: +32 (0)2 789 24 01
Date: 22/11/2010
Reference: PR 026/2010

BEUC calls to reject crucial amendment on prescription medicines

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, warns of a major set back for consumers if amendment 88 on the Directive on Information to Patients is adopted on Wednesday in plenary by the European Parliament.

This amendment would undermine the efforts of the environment and public health parliamentary committee to try to improve the controversial proposal of the Commission and shift the perspective from the industry's right to communicate to the patients' rights to be informed.

Indeed, it provides that material on prescription medicines would be excluded from all the requirements of the directive as long as it is handed by doctors, nurses or pharmacists to the patient. Concretely, this would mean that the pharmaceutical industry can publish any kind of information, without any form of monitoring. This amendment is therefore in total contradiction with the rest of the directive.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC commented:

"Medicines save lives but can also be dangerous, as last week's Mediator scandal reminded us. Medicines are not just random products; this is why information from the pharmaceutical industry should be very strictly regulated.

"The pharmaceutical industry should not use the doctor's office and pharmacies to promote their products. We fear an undue influence on the doctor/patient relationship. The adoption of the amendment would set up the worst case scenario: promotional information is given by those people whom patients trust the most."

ENDS

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation
+32 (0)2 789 24 01 - press@beuc.eu

Want to know more about BEUC? Visit www.beuc.eu

 **[EC register for interest representatives: identification number 9505781573-45](#)** 