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BEUC reacts to pharmaceutical associations' bid to share drug trials data

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation, (BEUC) reacted to today's announcement by pharmaceutical associations committing to share clinical trials data[1]. Such commitments come two days after the [Guardian](#) revealed pharma groups' strategy to mobilise patient groups against transparent clinical trials results.

"Today's statement by European and US pharmaceutical federations on sharing clinical trial data locks the door after the horse has bolted. The debate on data transparency has already moved on and there is no way back to their old secretive ways. It is no longer up to the industry.

"Their pronouncements do not cover up big pharma's unethical attempts to mobilise patient groups solely to protect their commercial interests.

"Let's not forget that the industry has form here – it also attempted to undermine the European Medicines Agency's transparency policy by going to the European Court of Justice. [2] As a result, BEUC decided to lend the full extent of its support to EMA in its pending cases against two pharma companies. We expect the authorisation to intervene to be granted very soon.

"The pharma industry raised concerns about the risk of trial information being misinterpreted and causing health scares. But currently, the only existing evidence points to the health risks of secrecy and non-disclosure. Several drug-related scandals could have been prevented and many lives saved had trial data been examined by independent researchers."

END

[1] <http://transparency.efpia.eu/mediaroom/11/19/Data-Sharing-Commitments-will-Enhance-Research-and-Scientific-Knowledge-Advance-Patient-Care-and-Improve-Public-Health>

[2] EMA was sued in February 2013 by pharmaceutical companies AbbVie and InterMune for releasing the clinical trial data for some of their products. For more details:
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/news_and_events/news/2013/04/news_detail_001779.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058004d5c1