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### **Drug pricing and reimbursement decisions have no place in TTIP**

National governments should maintain full autonomy to make drug pricing and reimbursement decisions in the public interest.

With the pharmaceuticals file on the table during this week's 10<sup>th</sup> round of TTIP negotiations, we expect negotiators to consider that these kinds of decisions are an exclusive competence of the Member States and have no place in an EU-US trade deal.

Past experience with anti-virals for H1N1 flu show that excessive pressure on European governments can see large quantities of medicines purchased in the absence of convincing evidence that they work. This practice not only depletes drug budgets but diverts funds away from other proven treatments.

Monique Goyens, BEUC's Director General commented:

"Transparency of how drug prices are set and how reimbursement is determined is crucial for consumers to know and to trust that these decisions make the most optimal treatments accessible.

"However, transparency should not give leeway to pharmaceutical companies to interfere in decisions about how much governments should pay for their products.

"Corporate pressure has played an influential role in past decisions to reimburse the cost of medicines of unproven or limited efficacy. This has been at the cost of consumers and EU health systems.

"Drug pricing and reimbursement directly impacts access to medicines. These critical decisions should be shielded from undue pressure by foreign investors and kept out of the transatlantic trade deal.

"A TTIP of added value won't overstep its bounds by meddling in European health systems."

ENDS

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