BEUC The European Consumer Organisation

Press Statement

02/04/2014

Drug trials and medical devices to get EU shake-up

Drug trials and medical devices – such as contact lenses, hip replacements or pacemakers – will be tackled in two crunch European Parliament votes today.

While BEUC applauds the expected increase of transparency for clinical trials, the consumer organisation urges MEPs to seize the opportunity to beef up medical devices' safety standards.

Ilaria Passarani, BEUC's Head of the Food and Health Department, commented:

"The fact that only half of clinical drug study results are publicly available is a state of affairs which needs urgent change. This data belongs not only to the pharma companies but to society at large. As MEPs adopt this new EU Regulation on clinical trials the veil of secrecy is about to be lifted. All trials' information will finally become available on an EU database. This is long overdue as consumers have the right to know more about the medicines they take. Moreover, making this data available prevents trials from being repeated uselessly.

"Some people breathe and walk thanks to medical devices. Recent scandals such as that with PIP breast implants have revealed dangerous loopholes in the current system, so taking bold action to ensure consumer safety is a must. The EU should not tolerate an approximate system for checking these life-saving devices before they enter the market.

"The medical devices law improves the current standards by empowering consumers with more information and easing the means to report defects. One of the areas which unfortunately still need clear improvement are safety checks."

ENDS

See our dedicated section on medical devices.

Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs AISBL | Der Europäische Verbraucherverband
Rue d'Arlon 80, B-1040 Brussels • Tel. +32 (0)2 789 24 01 •
press@beuc.eu • www.beuc.eu • www.twitter.com/beuctweet
TVA: BE 0422 071 051 • EC register for interest representatives: identification number 9505781573-45