

Subject: Your support to Health Technology assessment proposal

Dear Health Attaché,

I'm writing to you in view of the upcoming discussions on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) that will take place during the **EPSCO Council on the 22 June**.

Many new medicines that enter the market today [do not offer](#) consumers any additional added value compared to existing treatments. **Superfluous drugs waste taxpayers' money** and, when reimbursed by healthcare systems, **eat up the budget** that could otherwise be spent on innovative treatments for consumers.

By assessing the value of new drugs and medical devices, **HTA is a crucial tool for national decision-makers**, who are increasingly struggling to make choices about whether to reimburse a treatment and, if so, at what price.

With this regard, BEUC welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on HTA, as it has the **potential to avoid duplication** of clinical assessments and **speed up the process** that ultimately should bring the medicine to patients.

We nonetheless consider that [some chances](#) in the proposal are necessary to better serve the interest of patients and consumers while respecting crucial differences among healthcare systems.

This includes measures to guarantee **high quality standards** of the assessments, transparency in the process and **more flexibility** for adapting the assessment reports to the national context.

The European Parliament's [first approach](#) to the text confirms the desire to proceed in this direction and that is why we strongly hope that on the 22 of June the Council of Ministers will take the same, constructive approach.

As recognized by Health Ministers in the [Council Conclusions 2016](#), **HTA is an integral part of the access to medicines debate** in Europe and has the potential to drive Europe toward more sustainable healthcare systems, truly promote innovation and reduce inequalities across the EU.

.../...

We are confident that the Council meeting will offer a good opportunity to constructively discuss the above-mentioned elements and ensure that negotiations advance smoothly.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and remain at your disposal for further information.

With kind regards,

Pelle Moos
Team Leader, Safety and Health

Francesca Cattarin
Health Policy Officer