

Politico PRO Morning Health Care  
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**HTA — GERMAN INSURER RESPONDS:** The criticism from patient group EURORDIS of German opposition to plans for EU-level health technology assessment struck a chord with Evert Jan Van Lente, EU affairs director at the AOK-Bundesverband, one of the largest German insurers. He wrote in to say Germany is seriously interested in making joint assessments at EU level and is willing to change AMNOG, the country's pharmaceutical law. "But the Commission crossed a few red lines in its proposal," he said. The Commission's own Regulatory Scrutiny Board at first rejected the proposal, and in its second opinion flagged reservations when it waved the plans through. "These problems were not addressed in the final proposal. What does the Commission expect?" Van Lente asked.

Among these reservations, the board said the impact assessment underpinning the HTA proposal doesn't "convincingly demonstrate" that the mandatory uptake of EU clinical assessments is necessary to address many of the current problems with EU-level cooperation on HTA.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/technology\\_assessment/docs/2018\\_ia\\_rsboption\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/technology_assessment/docs/2018_ia_rsboption_en.pdf)

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/technology\\_assessment/docs/2018\\_ia\\_final\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/technology_assessment/docs/2018_ia_final_en.pdf)

**Cancer Leagues advice:** The European Cancer Leagues emailed us their endorsement of the Commission's proposal, arguing it will improve access to high-quality drugs for all patients. "Despite promised added value before entering the market, most new medicines proved [to have] marginal clinical and quality of life improvements for cancer patients," the group said.

[https://www.europeancancerleagues.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ECL-HTA-opinion\\_final.pdf](https://www.europeancancerleagues.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ECL-HTA-opinion_final.pdf)

But, on the basis that the Commission's proposal leaves some questions unanswered, the ECL added its recommendations. These are: the need for EU-level assessments to meet the highest possible standards; to take into account patient-reported outcomes and real world evidence; to involve patients throughout the process; and to ensure transparency and independence. To make their position even clearer, here's their graphic.

<https://www.europeancancerleagues.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HTA-ECL-Position-infographic-1.pdf>