

17 May 2019, Brussels

Subject: Letter of support for the Italian draft resolution on improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health-related technologies to be discussed at the 72nd session of the WHA to be held on 20-28 May 2019.

Dear Minister,

During the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) which will take place in Geneva between 20 and 28 May 2019, access to medicines and vaccines will be on the agenda (point 11.7). In this session, among other things, the Italian draft resolution on "Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health-related technologies" will be discussed.

The Access to Medicines Task Force of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), representing 26 national and regional cancer societies in 23 European countries, welcomes this resolution. With this letter, we wish to encourage your support for the draft resolution.

The ECL Task Force shares the concerns of the authors of the resolution about high prices and the lack of transparency in the real price and price structure of medicines. It is of utmost importance, that the proposed obligations stated in the resolution are formulated in such a way that patients' access to medicines with proven added therapeutic value are not compromised. More specifically, Article 1.3. ("Require as a condition of registration ...") might pose a risk to this accessibility. The non-compliance with the requirements such as the delivery of annual reports on sales figures and marketing costs must not lead to the disappearance of the market license. Instead, an appropriate sanction system shall be in place.

Taking these points into account, the ECL Access to Medicines Task Force feels positive about the resolution. We see it as a great opportunity to join forces with as many countries as possible through a work program to enforce transparency on real medicines prices, the cost of R&D, the results of clinical studies and patent protection.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any follow up questions or remarks.
We wish your delegation a successful meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Eveline Scheres
Chair, ECL Access to Medicines Task Force



Anna Prokūpková
ECL Policy & Project Officer

