

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mr COLLINS,
Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, Mr ADAM, Mrs FUILLET,
Mr MUNTINGH, Mr O'CONNELL, Mrs ROUDY, Mrs WEBER
on behalf of the Socialist Group

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the production and use of pharmaceutical
products

The European Parliament,

- whereas the right to optimum health care is a fundamental right,
 - whereas public health falls within the scope of the Treaties,
 - whereas it is the task of Member States and the Community to provide themselves with structures guaranteeing the best possible health care,
 - whereas the growing use of pharmaceutical products leads to high costs for social security systems,
 - whereas pharmaceutical production is in the hands of a few large undertakings which occupy a dominant position and make enormous profits at the Community's expense,
 - whereas the Community directives adopted on this subject chiefly concern the free movement of pharmaceutical products, which is, however, still seriously impeded by technical barriers to trade,
1. Is concerned at the uncontrolled increase in the number of pharmaceutical products being put on the market and the variety of forms in which they appear, without any evidence that this quantitative increase is producing a perceptible improvement in the quality of health or health protection;
 2. Considers that measures need to be taken against the overconsumption of pharmaceutical products due to commercial practices, in particular advertising by pharmaceutical laboratories, so as to prevent the wastage, harmful side effects and extra burden on the social security systems;
 3. Stresses the need for a transparent market for pharmaceutical products by means of quality and price controls in order to put a stop to excessive profits;
 4. Points out the existence of, and trade in, illegally imported products and urgently requests the Commission to start the necessary investigation and to take effective action;
 5. Is of the opinion that the price of pharmaceutical products ought not to be allowed to become a social obstacle to the right to optimum health care;
 6. Stresses therefore the need for the strict application of the rules of competition;
 7. Recalls the need to reorientate policy regarding pharmaceutical products so that industrial interests are no longer the only matter to which importance is attached but also coordination between pharmaceutical laboratories, private and government research institutes and the doctors concerned, in the interests of the consumer;

8. Urges the rapid harmonization and raising of standards in registration of pharmaceutical products so that the differences between Member States as regards what products are available on or off prescription cease to exist;
9. Is of the opinion that the consumer is entitled to verified information on the packaging and enclosures;
10. Requests the Commission to proceed without delay with its proposal on misleading advertising for pharmaceutical products;
11. Considers it essential that a proposal be received from the Commission in the near future on a well-conceived information and education campaign covering the proper use of pharmaceutical products and the limits to be placed on their use;
12. Urges that more attention be paid to the points mentioned above in training and further training courses for doctors, nursing staff and pharmacists, so that all persons using or prescribing medicines have available all the necessary information on the therapeutic value of the products proposed to them;
13. Deplores the way in which many pharmaceutical companies, through their medical representatives, frequently see fit to offer their products for sale to doctors by means of samples, gifts and loans, and calls on the Commission to draw up a proposal designed to prevent the use of these improper sales practices in the various Member States;
14. Considers that pharmaceutical products exported to developing countries must satisfy the same safety and quality standards as those applicable in the Member States of the Community;
15. Instructs the Commission to harmonize the statistical information completely and to analyse this in a report on the pharmaceutical sector, so that a sound overall picture may be gained of the consumption of pharmaceutical products and the consequences thereof for public health.

