



Request to be received in the Opening of the informal EPSCO Council on the 22nd of September 2014

Dear Italian Minister of Health Beatrice Lorenzin,

Dear Commissioner for Health and consumers Tonio Borg,

Dear MoH of the EU Member States,

On September 22nd Europe's Ministers of Health will meet in Milan to discuss, among other issues, questions related to patient access to medical and pharmaceutical innovation.

Europe's umbrella patient organizations, and several international networks sent, on July 28th, a joint call to all of Europe's Health Ministers and to the CEO's of the five major pharmaceutical companies with **new drugs for Hepatitis C** ("Call to EU Ministers of Health and CEOs of Abbvie, BMS, Gilead, Jassen and Merck/MSD regarding Universal Access to Curative Hepatitis C Treatment in the EU and Beyond"), where we urged all parties to take action, in order to ensure adequate and universal access, at affordable prices, to these lifesaving medicines to all those who need it.

Without concrete responses so far, we will publically reaffirm the need for fast agreements between governments and the pharmaceutical industry, and for clear decisions and commitments that promote access, during the EPSCO council on health, through a "sit in" at the meeting site.

Although our objective is to obtain commitment and join efforts from our governments; refuse a two speed health in European Union we want to be part of the solution, make our voices heard and put pressure on the industry to contribute to the resolution of this public health problem and agree on fair deals that ensure affordability and sustainability of our very different national health systems,

We are convinced that civil society, most affected communities and patient organizations can have a major role in facilitating this process, and **thus we ask that two spokespeople among these organizations would be allowed to enter the meeting and address the Health Ministers, in order to shortly express our concerns and recommendations, and as a sign that civil society will, as it should, be a key stakeholder in the process.**

We understand that this is not a standard process, and we guarantee that this intervention will be brief (not more than 10 minutes), in order not to interfere with the agenda of the day.

Our european patient delegates are:

Mr. Luis Mendao – For EATG, HIV and other EU groups

Mr. Achim Kautz – for ELPA and EU hepatitis groups

If accepted, we will propose other two local Italian delegates.

Certain that this request will deserve your attention, and with our best regards,

The organizers of the “sit-in”

EPAC www.epac.it, LILA www.lila.it NADIR www.nadironlus.org PLUS www.plus-onlus.it

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On behalf of the subscribers of the call



European Liver Patients Association (ELPA)

World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA)

International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)

Correlation Network

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

European Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA)

Civil Society Forum (CSF)

European Aids Treatment Group (EATG)

Action Europe (AAE)