

DECLARATION OF SOFIA

ON ENSURING ADEQUATE ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AT SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE PRICES

2-3 June 2016

We, the participants in Ministerial meeting on the growing challenges in the field of pharmaceutical policy (2d and 3d June 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria) as representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia

Acknowledging our common values and responsibilities to our population,
Considering the key role of health for individual welfare, successful society and prosperous economy,
Driven by our priority to ensure access to quality healthcare for our citizens,
Recognizing the challenges in the area of the pharmaceutical policy,
Taking into account the need for responsible, reasonable and financially sustainable health policies,
Acknowledging the necessity to jointly address these challenges,
Taking into account the health as a social value of European citizens and everyone's right,
Convinced that a dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry will result into mutual understanding,
more responsibility and agreements to the benefit of all parties, but most of all: to patients

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING COMMON GOALS:

To jointly promote the key role of public health and responsible health policies as a driver to the economy - and not as a burden;

To facilitate the perception of pharmaceuticals as one of the main pillars of healthcare rather than as mere objects of trade – and their respective treatment at national, EU and international level;

To jointly address key issues that our health systems are currently faced with, such as a lack of and difficulties with the availability of essential medicines, high prices of innovative drugs, the need of assessment of their effectiveness including cost - effectiveness; the impact on the sustainability of the health systems;

To ensure exchange of information and transparency among each other in the area of pharmaceutical policy;

To exchange good practices and ideas, and implement solutions that take into account our national specifics;

To encourage understanding and social responsibility among supply - side and demand - side stakeholders on the importance of making medicines that are essential to our population available and affordable;

To develop joint initiatives, possible future agreements and projects that contributes to our common goals.