



## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

# European Pharmacists elect Mr Jesus Aguilar Santamaria as PGEU President for 2018

**The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)** is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists.

PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA/EFTA members and EU applicant countries.

For more information, please visit the PGEU website [www.pgeu.eu](http://www.pgeu.eu) or contact [j.svarcaite@pgeu.eu](mailto:j.svarcaite@pgeu.eu)



On the 14<sup>th</sup> June, the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union elected **Mr Jesus Aguilar Santamaria** from Spain as PGEU President for 2018, at its General Assembly in London.



Mr Aguilar Santamaria studied Pharmacy at Complutense University of Madrid. After completing his pharmacy degree, he began to work in the pharmaceutical industry, and since 2002 he is a community pharmacist. He is currently President of the General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain, a professional organisation which represents 22.000 pharmacies and 70.000 pharmacists at national and international level. Previously he was President of the Regional Chamber of Castilla- Leon and Vice-President of the General Pharmaceutical Council. He has been honoured with several awards.

PGEU has appointed Ms Kristiina Sepp from Estonia as PGEU Vice President for 2018. She is a pharmacist with over 14 years of experience in practice and in professional associations and has served on the PGEU executive committee for the past three years.

Mr Aguilar Santamaria stressed in his acceptance speech: *“European health systems are consistently ranked among the top performing in the world and are recognised for providing high quality and accessible healthcare services to citizens. A network of 160,000 community pharmacies is part of this success story. More than 46 million people, ill or seeking health advice, visit a pharmacy every day. Our place in communities, professionalism and high accessibility are the greatest assets that we must preserve and build on.*

*The EU and Member States in the past years have moved toward an agenda which is driven by the overarching objectives of promoting economic growth and fiscal sustainability. As a profession, we have contributed to these objectives by promoting rational use of resources when encouraging greater use of generic medicines or enhancing our role as self-care advisors, developing professional services, etc. We will continue to support our citizens and health systems. However, we would like to be reassured that under no circumstances, may quality, access to care or patient safety be put at risk by decisions driven by other agendas, in particular economic concerns.”*



**PGEU GPUE**

*Pharmaceutical Group of European Union  
Groupement Pharmaceutique de l'Union Européenne*