



PGEU GPUE

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

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PGEU Sets Out Vision for Greater Use of Pharmacists' Competences

For Immediate Release

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 or contact Ms Giovanna Giacomuzzi, PGEU Communications and Policy Officer (tel. +32 2 238 08 18).



The unique asset that is the community pharmacy network needs to be better exploited: making better use of the competences of European pharmacists can help EU governments and patients to optimise the use of medicines, and substantially reduce the overall cost of health care.

The [European Community Pharmacy Blueprint](#), adopted during the last PGEU General Assembly, reflects the desire among European community pharmacists, despite the difficult economic climate, to advance the pharmacy profession and practice in order to provide patients with the best and most cost-effective care possible, and to face current and future challenges in healthcare.

The vision set out in the EU Community Pharmacy Blueprint falls into in the four principle areas of modern pharmacy practice: medicine safety and access to medicines; treatment outcomes of individual patients; public health, and efficiency and quality of the health system.

The fact that the community pharmacy is very often the first and last point of the patient's interaction with health system, uniquely positions the community pharmacy network in health systems. But the way in which healthcare is organised is changing. Community pharmacies, as an essential part of health systems, are ready to embrace change. Community pharmacists are ready to play an active role in the primary healthcare team, supporting the development of national medicine management strategies, and providing a wider range of patient centred services.

Pharmacists' potential to contribute to a better use of medicines for patients taking multiple medicines and to improve adherence to therapies was also highlighted in a recent IMS Healthcare Study¹ on responsible use of medicines.

PGEU President Ms Adenot said: "There are 154.000 community pharmacies in the EU- the most widely distributed healthcare facility in Europe- and 32 members countries with different health systems in the PGEU, yet European pharmacists are speaking with one voice.

In order to embrace current and future challenges, we want to create a future where services offered at European community pharmacies, at the heart of the communities by highly qualified and independent healthcare professionals further support individual patients, improve the outcome of their treatments, and contribute to the efficiency and quality of the health system".

¹ IMS Healthcare Study: \$500B in Global Health Spending Can be Avoided Annually Through More Responsible Use of Medicines.