



## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

# PGEU welcomes IMCO recognising special nature of health professions

**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)



*Brussels, December 4, 2017:* PGEU welcomes IMCO efforts to improve the proposal for a Directive on a proportionality test which was confirmed during the Committee vote earlier today when agreeing on a set of compromised amendments. While not fully addressing PGEU concerns, they recognise the special nature of health professions and ensure a sufficient margin of discretion to Member States to guarantee the highest level of human health protection when regulating health professions.

PGEU strongly believes that proportionality is a core principle of EU and national law and that EU as well as Member States are subject to it without any exceptions. However, a horizontal and non-sector specific EU proportionality test is not suitable for assessing the regulation of health professions. One of the unintended negative effects of the Directive will be a higher administrative burden when introducing or amending professional regulation which is necessary and justified on the grounds of public health. Health professions are not affected by the same competitive market forces as professions providing commercial services, therefore PGEU doubts whether the pharmacy profession and health systems will in any way benefit from the Directive.

From the date of its publication, early this year, health professions (namely doctors, dentists and pharmacists) have been voicing concerns that the Commission's proposal does not grant a sufficient margin of discretion to Member States when regulating health professions and therefore health systems based on local needs and national strategies with an aim to ensure a highest level of safety and quality in health services.