

# PRESS RELEASE

## EU Overlooks Public Health in IP Enforcement Directive

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Health Action International (HAI) Europe has identified numerous shortcomings in the European Commission's Report and Analysis on the Directive on Intellectual Property (IP) Enforcement, and calls on the Commission to consider the broader social impact of the Directive's measure, namely access to medicines.

In its response to the European Commission's consultation on the Report on the IP Enforcement Directive, submitted yesterday, HAI Europe underlines the Commission's failure to consider the public health dimension of IP enforcement. Glaring omissions reveal how the analysis process failed to solicit the views of a broad range of stakeholders, namely civil society, while granting business stakeholders multiple opportunities to contribute.

The application of the IP Enforcement Directive could have a chilling effect on the legitimate parallel trade of medicines, which would reduce competition and drive up the costs of medicines, impacting on national healthcare systems and citizens. Such consequences were not explored in the Commission's analysis and are absent from the report.

"IP enforcement can impact on the availability of generic medicines and the affordability of medicines throughout Europe. Failing to consider these implications is not in line with the EU's commitment to ensure *health in all policies*," said Katrina Perehudoff, HAI Europe Project Officer.

"Access to medicines in countries with large poor populations could also be under threat if the EU attempts to export its stringent IP enforcement system through bilateral trade agreements, as it has done in the past," said Terri Beswick, HAI Europe Project Officer.

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The full HAI Europe Response is available at: <http://haieurope.org/publications/letters-consultations/>

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**Health Action International (HAI) is an independent, global network, working to increase access to essential medicines and improve their rational use through research excellence and evidence-based advocacy.**