



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.

## Statement

### Medicines pay-for-delay back under the microscope

21 January 2011 – Patent settlements come under scrutiny with the European Commission launching a second monitoring exercise. These pay-for-delay settlements can prevent people from accessing the medicines they need by artificially extending the monopoly of a blockbuster medicine. Last summer the US House of Representatives in its 'Preserve Access to Generic Medicines Act' condemned these settlements as anti-competitive and against the public interest. Patient and consumer groups need to be vigilant in monitoring the European Commission's work on anti-competitive pharmaceutical practices and support its efforts to ensure health in all policies.

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