

Brussels, May 9, 2012

Subject: Postpone the decision on the discharge of the European Medicines Agency's 2010 accounts

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On May 10th, the European Parliament will vote on the 2010 discharge report of the European Medicines Agency.

HAI Europe, Formindep and their partners have raised concerns about the Agency's management of potential conflicts of interest for over three years (see below). Decisions about medicines should always be made by impartial experts and based on the most objective evidence. Regulators' close ties with the pharmaceutical industry calls into question the independence of their decisions.

As part of your role in holding the Agencies accountable to European citizens, we ask you to **postpone the decision on the discharge of EMA's 2010 accounts** until the European Court of Auditor's Special Report on conflicts of interest management is published and the Agency has taken measures to rectify and explain any shortcomings identified.

Concerns about potential conflicts of interest at the EMA have been identified in:

- 19 Dec 2011 HAI Europe, ALTER-EU, Formindep letter to EMA Executive Director Guido Rasi
http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/19_dec_2011_open_letter_to_mr_rasi_concerning_the_staff_regulations_at_ema.pdf
- 20 June 2011 HAI Europe, International Society of Drug Bulletins, Formindep and ALTER-EU letter to DG SANCO Commissioner Dalli *Conflicts of Interest at the European Medicines Agency and the need for a review of staff regulations*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/20-June-2011-Joint-open-letter-to-Commissioner-Dalli-regarding-the-Staff-Regulations.pdf>
- 10 May 2011 HAI Europe, Medicines in Europe Forum and ISDB press release *Parliament's stand against conflicts of interest: Is it enough to ensure medicines safety?*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/10MAY21.pdf>
- 9 May 2011 HAI Europe and Corporate Europe Observatory letter to MEPs *Support for Audit of European Medicines Agency by the European Court of Auditors*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/09-May-2011-Joint-Open-letter-to-MEPs-regarding-EMA-Audit-.pdf>
- 24 Feb 2011 HAI Europe, EPHA, BEUC, ALTER-EU and International Society of Drug Bulletins Letter to DG SANCO Commissioner Dalli *Conflict of Interest for former EMA Executive Director*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/25-Feb-2011-Joint-Open-Letter-to-European-Commission.pdf>
- 18 Oct 2010 HAI Europe Statement *EMA Talks the 'Conflict of Interest Talk', but will it Walk the Walk?*

<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/18-oct-2010-HAI-EUROPE-Statement-conflicts-of-interest-policy-at-EMA.pdf>

- 11 August 2010 HAI Europe factsheet *Patient & consumer organizations at the EMA: Financial disclosure and transparency*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/11-Aug-2010-Report-Patient-consumer-organisations-at-the-EMA.pdf>
- 11 August 2010 HAI Europe research report *Patient & consumer organisations at the EMA: Financial disclosure and transparency*
<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/31-Jan-2011-HAI-EUROPE-Fact-Sheet-Patient-consumer-voice-and-pharmaceutical-industry-sponsorship.pdf>
- 24 Sept 2009 HAI Europe, Medicines in Europe Forum and ISDB response to EMEA Consultation *EMEA transparency policy falls short: a weak and irresponsible project*
<http://www.haiweb.org/24092009/24Sep2009JointResponseEMEATransparencyPolicy.pdf>
- 2009 La Revue Prescrire *Health authorities: hamstrung by their dependency on pharmaceutical companies?*
<http://english.prescrire.org/en/80/158/46352/0/PositionDetails.aspx>

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

With kind regards,

Katrina Perehudoff
Health Action International (HAI) Europe
katrina@haieurope.org
+31 20 683 3684

Anne Chailleu
Formindep



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