

C2 License to Heal

Proposer: Belgium Flemish Young Greens (Jong Groen) and Dutch Young Greens (DWARS)
Agenda item: 3 Resolutions

Text

1 A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines.
2 Also in developed European countries the costs of new and expensive medicines
3 can cause problems of accessibility. High prices of drugs threaten every
4 patients' right to treatment.

5 About a quarter of the available drugs were discovered by knowledge institutions
6 such as universities. The government finances medical scientific research, but
7 sets no conditions on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication.
8 This leaves pharmaceutical companies free to ask high prices which cannot be
9 accounted for by research and development costs. The pharmaceutical industry is
10 a billion-dollar organization operating on international level and thus action
11 is necessary on an international level.

12 The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines provides valuable recommendations
13 for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient
14 inconsistencies between public health, medical innovation and the current
15 research investment incentives and legal framework. Also, the UN Human Rights
16 Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as a fundamental
17 human right. The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution
18 ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting
19 numerous areas where member states can take immediate action. However, today the
20 European Union invests 1.6 billion euros in the Innovative Medicines Initiative
21 (IMI), a partnership of the EU with the pharmaceutical industry, without
22 requiring conditions directed at access to the resulting drugs.

23 Medicine and other medical products should be accessible to everyone. The human
24 right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining
25 societies. To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the
26 development and purchasing of medicine need to take responsibility. It is
27 necessary for countries to implement policies and collaborate with other
28 countries to safeguard the accessibility of drugs.

29 **The Federation of Young European Greens calls upon the EU, the governments of EU**
30 **member states and other European states to:**

- 31 • implement measures to better the accessibility of medicine.
- 32 • require research institutions to responsibly license new active
33 pharmaceutical ingredients which are discovered by these institutions

- 34 using public funding. Preferably by incorporating the following criteria
35 in the license agreements:
36
- 37 ◦ Require the licensee to be transparent about the added value and
38 cost structure of a drug (including marketing costs, public R&D
39 investments and tax rebates).
40
 - To require the licensee to ensure access to the drug originating
from such institutions by asking a responsible price
- 41 • Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with
42 pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain
43 bargaining power and ensure their accessibility of medicine and the
44 sustainability of healthcare systems.
- 45 • Stimulate the European Commission to take the following measures:
46
- 47 ◦ Promote the accessibility of medicines in low- and middle income
48 countries by making market competition possible through non-
49 exclusive licenses of European public research in these countries;
50
 - 51 ◦ Implement criteria for funding the Innovative Medicines Initiative.
The Innovative Medicines Initiative should safeguard the access to
the resulting drugs of this public-private partnership.