

To: **Federal Minister of Health and Women's Affairs  
of Republic of Austria**  
Mag. Beate Hartinger-Klein

27 June 2018, Vienna, Austria

Dear Mag. Beate Hartinger-Klein,

As European civil society organizations working on access to medicines and public health, we are deeply concerned about the issue of high drug prices and the lack of needs-driven innovation within Europe.

In taking up the Presidency of the EU, we call on you to champion the rights of patients to quality and affordable medicines. With full respect to the Council conclusions on “Strengthening the balance in the pharmaceutical systems in the EU and its Member States” adopted on 16 June 2016, we ask that under your Presidency the following issues are prioritised as part of the EU’s health and research agenda :

- addressing the unaffordable prices of medicines that are bankrupting patients and health systems across the continent
- increasing transparency and public accountability around the prices of medicines
- ensuring health research and development investment is tailored toward addressing unmet health needs
- introducing safeguards in biomedical research and innovation to guarantee the maximum social impact of public investment.

We call on you as the Minister of Health to maintain a European pharmaceutical policy agenda that ensures the long-term sustainability of health care systems in Europe and places patients at the center of our health innovation model.

**Signatories:**

BUKO Pharma-Kampagne (Germany)

Commons Network

Global Health Advocates (France)

Global Justice Now (UK)

Just Treatment (UK)

Knowledge Ecology International Europe

STOPAIDS (UK)

The All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (Ukraine)

TranspariMED

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines

Wemos (The Netherlands)

Youth Stop AIDS (UK)