

To
The Honorable
Mr. George Papandreou
Prime Minister of Greece
Megaro Maximou

Cc: Mrs. Louka Katseli, Minister of Economy, Competitiveness & Shipping
Mr. George Papakonstantinou, Minister of Finance
Mr. Andreaw Loverdos, Minister of Labor and Social Insurance
Mrs. Mariliza Xenogiannakopoulou, Minister of Health & Public Solidarity

Halandri, 28 April 2010

Honorable Prime Minister,

The Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies is sounding the alarm regarding the imminent Market Decree which institutes flat reductions to the prices of medicinal products. The Board of Directors of SFEE has come to the conclusion, after consulting with its legal counsels, that the issuance of this Market Decree does not have any legal authorization whatsoever.

This decision is destructive for the Greek patients because it will result to major shortages of medicines in the market, given that both the international and the national companies producing and importing medicinal products will ask the withdrawal of medicines from the Greek market.

The international companies have already sent an ultimatum stating that they will withdraw a multitude of pharmaceutical products at once, should the prices of their products be illegally driven to reduce even lower than the lowest prices in the European Union. Furthermore, they have repeatedly requested to be informed on the resulting prices and they request that you will not proceed with the publication of these prices in case the provision for flat reduction of the prices is adopted.

This decision in a nutshell puts a gravestone over a lot of pharmaceutical companies, since they will be forced to drastically reduce their expenses. Should this decision be implemented, it will act against the interests of the Greek patients, whereas the national economy will not benefit to the least. It is unfair that the Greek patients should pay for the inefficiency of the Secretariat General of Commerce to issue a legal Price Bulletin.

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We are unable to comprehend the purpose of such a catastrophic and illegal decision, when at the same time there is an optimum, legal and immediately effective solution to the satisfaction of everyone, which results in the same financial outcome.

The legal solution is the immediate submission by the pharmaceutical companies of the three lowest prices of 6.500 medicinal products marketed in the 22 countries of the European Union, as stated in the current law in force and in the Market Decree.

Honorable Prime Minister,

The pharmaceutical companies believe that we live in a lawful State and upon the issuance of the Market Decree in force, on March 31, 2010, they planned their business agenda, their investments, their employment needs and in general their organizational and developmental plans, which today they're called to cancel in an absolutely illegal and drastic way.

The vast majority of the pharmaceutical companies cooperate with large international European and PhARMA companies and it is unacceptable that at this crucial moment our country is facing, during which we must all work together and cooperate, to be treated in such a devastating and unreliable manner.

We make an ultimate dramatic appeal to you, to order the implementation of the Law and the Market Decree in force, which is the only legal solution that can at this moment, be of benefit to our country.

Immediately after that, we ask that an open dialogue on the important, still unsolved issues of our sector among all the stakeholders and the State officials starts.

Faithfully,

Dionysios Filiotis
President

Pascal Apostolides
Vice-President