

To:

Mr Antonis Samaras,
Prime Minister of Greece,
Maximos Mansion;

Mr Andreas Lykourantzou,
Minister of Health and Social Solidarity,
Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

Cc.: Mr Y. Stournaras, Minister of Finance
Mr M. Salmas, Alternate Minister of Health and Social Solidarity
Mr G. Voudouris, President of the National Organisation for the Provision of
Health Services (EOPYY)
Mr P. Kalliris, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health
Ms Ch. Papanikolaou, Secretary-General for Public Health
Mr G. Mergos, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance

Halandri, 10 September 2012

Subject: Outstanding debts of EOPYY to pharmaceutical companies

Dear Prime Minister;

Dear Minister,

In response to today's announcement by the Ministry of Health regarding a schedule for the payment of EOPYY's outstanding debts to its suppliers, we would like to draw your attention to a thorny issue, i.e. EOPYY's debts owed directly to pharmaceutical companies. We are disappointed that, once again, pharmaceutical companies are not included in the payment schedule, although **they are by far the largest creditor of EOPYY.**

Despite repeated commitments by the government to ensure the payment of outstanding bills within 2012, the problem has now taken on explosive proportions, as EOPYY alone owes to pharmaceutical companies more than **€720 million, outstanding for the last 20 months!** The total debts of general government (EOPYY, NHS hospitals, military hospitals) to pharmaceutical companies have reached the exorbitant amount of **€1.8 billion!**

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Pharmaceutical companies, EOPYY's largest creditor, have proven in practice that they realise the gravity of the situation our country finds itself in. Over the past three years they agreed to painful, across-the-board and often unfair measures, in an effort to do their part to reduce public pharmaceutical spending. Effectively, pharmaceutical companies have not been paid since 2006, as the bonds given to them in settlement of past unpaid bills from the years 2007-2009 were subject to a haircut of more than 70% (representing a loss of €1 billion), while on the other hand they have been facing an increasing tax burden in the form of extraordinary levies, income tax, VAT, etc. As a result, they are **under severe strain in terms of liquidity, employment in the industry and ability to supply the market.**

Dear Prime Minister,

Dear Minister,

We appeal to you for your personal intervention in the matter, in order to ensure the payment of the above-mentioned debts by the end of 2012 according to a schedule to be announced to us as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Dimitrios Demos
President of Panhellenic Union
of Pharmaceutical Industries (PEF)

Konstantinos M. Frouzis
President of SFEE

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