

To
The Honourable
Mr Antonis Samaras
Prime Minister of Greece

Cc.: Mr Gikas Hardouvelis, Minister of Finance
Mr Makis Vouridis, Minister of Health
Mr Christos Staikouras, Deputy Minister of Finance

Re: Target of EOPYY expenditure for 2014

Chalandri, July 23, 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

The Health and medicine sector is facing the most hazardous impact of the financial crisis. Cutbacks, especially in the recent years, affect the citizens' health and certainly the viability of pharmaceutical companies.

In pharmaceutical healthcare substantial and justified, to their majority, cutbacks have been effected, in parallel however, excessive rebates and clawbacks far beyond the rationalization. More specifically, the target set for 2014 is the reduction of pharmaceutical budget at €1.944 - €2.000 bn. That is, a radical cutback for the 5th consecutive year that leads to a per capita expenditure at more than half of the European average.

In addition, the moment the pharmaceutical companies are facing a financial dead-end due to the shrinkage of budget and the delay in payments, they are called to cover the pharmaceutical expenditure for the uninsured persons (around €340 mio), in the context of the social policy the Government seeks to enforce.

The above target of €2 bn. is not only presently non-viable, but most of all, it is in no way feasible, since it has been proven insufficient to cover the needs of the country's patients. In parallel, the implementation of such a target will lead to the imposition **within 2014 of a disastrous clawback, which the pharmaceutical companies cannot pay.**

Direct problems that will emerge are, **shortage in medicinal products and inability of patients to access necessary treatments, as well as the inability of companies to preserve the job posts they offer.**

Consequently, in order to face this substantial problem and in parallel to cover the need of the uninsured co-citizens of ours for pharmaceutical healthcare, the target for the pharmaceutical expenditure of EOPYY must be fixed at **€2.3 bn. for 2014 and it must be ensured that the clawback for the first six months of 2014 will not exceed the amount of €70 mio.**

Dear Prime Minister,

We deeply appreciate and support in fact your persistent efforts in order for Greece to achieve financial stability, for reforms to continue and for the establishment of predictability in the Health sector. However, the imminent danger forces us to **address to you this *ultimate plea*, in order to personally intervene in this major social matter.**

Yours sincerely,

Constantinos M. Frouzis
President

Paschalis Apostolidis
Vice President