



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
& SOCIAL SOLIDARITY  
NATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR  
MEDICINES  
284 Mesoghion Avenue, 155 62  
Cholargus, Athens  
Office of the President  
Email: med\_conf@eof.gr

**Cholargus, 19.04.2013**  
**Protocol No. 32425**

**INTERPRETATIVE CIRCULAR (for the circular No 81867/19.4.2013)**

**1. Sponsorship of companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction to Healthcare Professionals-Scientists employed in the field of healthcare services, for their participation in Type A Events held abroad**

Companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction are entitled to sponsor the participation in Scientific Events/Conferences held abroad (Type A) of Healthcare Professionals as well as scientists employed in the field of healthcare services. A necessary condition is that the topic of the Scientific Event/Conference is related to the specialty and the object of the participating scientist.

**2. Healthcare professionals participate in Greece, in events (type A) of great scientific interest, such as:**

- International
- European Countries Events (National)
- North America Countries Events (National)

which are held by scientific agencies of recognised specialties and fields.

**3. Panhellenic Conferences are held not more than once (1) a year.**

**4. Sponsorships of Scientific Events:**

The support (including or not the sponsorship package) of Scientific Events/Conferences from companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction, which are organised in Greece with the approval of EOF, with showrooms,

satellite conferences, lectures, advertisements, organised dinners as well as the general sponsorship thereof, cannot exceed per company with products under EOF's jurisdiction, the following limits, including VAT:

- **Worldwide/Pan-European Scientific Events held in Greece by foreign scientific agencies or jointly with a Greece scientific agency, up to €50,000 per company/sponsor**
- **Scientific Events held by scientific agencies throughout the Greek State with a term less or equal to three (3) days and with a number of participants a less of equal to one hundred (100) up to €30,000 per company/sponsor**
- **Scientific Events with a term equal or higher than two (2) days and with a number of participants equal or higher than one hundred (100) up to €30,000 per company/sponsor**
- **Scientific events of a term of one (1) day, regardless of the number of participants, up to €10,000 per company/sponsor**

#### **5. Scientific Events (Type D) Domestic – Abroad:**

(a) Scientific events (Type D) in Greece are organised by companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction, with registered offices outside Greece, who undertake in full the cost of the event, without any promotional purposes, and on the contrary, these are solely of training or research nature, and constitute specialised fora, with a complete scientific programme, bringing together speakers of high calibre (e.g. training seminars for speakers and/or for writing scientific articles and/or theses, CMEs, research programmes. The number of the participants in Type D Events from foreign companies, can be unlimited, with unlimited number of participations (Type D application form).

(b) Scientific events (Type D) in Greece, are organised by companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction having their registered office in Greece, who undertake in full the cost of the event, without any promotional purposes, and on the contrary, these are solely of training or research nature, and constitute specialised fora, with a complete scientific programme, bringing together speakers of high calibre (e.g. training seminars for speakers and/or for writing scientific articles and/or theses, CMEs, research programmes etc.).

They are held at the registered office of the company, coffee or refreshment drinks are offered. No staying overnight is provided, with the exception of special cases for healthcare professionals for events held in the country and only for one night, and provided that the programme exceeds five hours in duration (the expenses limits for Type A Domestic, Type B & C Events apply).

The organising of Type D events by companies with registered office in Greece, is subject to the same limitation as regards the filing of the application with the Type B and C events (Type D application form).

The number of the participants in Type D scientific events organised by pharmaceutical companies with registered office in Greece can be unlimited, with a maximum number of events ten (10) events per company per year.

#### **6. Participation of Healthcare Professionals in Events held in Greece-Abroad, exception (a)**

If the healthcare professional is the “speaker”, “chairman”, “member” of the organising committee, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> “**author**” in a work (oral announcement or post) approved to be presented in the event. **If the speech or the announcement is the product of a co-operation of more than one clinic or laboratory, then the said exception includes the third and the penult author (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, penult and last author).**

#### **7. Participation of Healthcare Professionals in Events held Abroad, exception (c)**

Ability to participate in targeted training activities abroad **on the basis of their programme**, e.g. participation in special workshops (learning of special endoscopic techniques or operating techniques), research seminars, training Schools for one specific topic (e.g. European Respiratory School on monitoring airways diseases).

In the Events/Conference of exception (c) each company with products under EOF’s jurisdiction can send up to five (5) healthcare professionals per event and healthcare professionals are entitled to participate to three (3) events per year.

#### **8. Participation of Healthcare Professionals in International Events/Conferences held in Greece**

**9.** The participation of a healthcare professional in international conferences in Greece which are held by foreign scientific agencies or in co-operation with Greek scientific agencies is deemed as a participation in a Domestic Scientific Event.

**10.** The sponsorship of only the entry of a healthcare professional for the participation thereof in Domestic Scientific Events is not calculated in the numerical participation limits if it is not accompanied by transportation and/or accommodation expenses.

**11.** Companies with products under EOF’s jurisdiction, who do not enter cost-plus data in EOF’s database, will not be entitled to organise any Event Type B or C or to send a healthcare professional abroad for a Type A Event.

**12.** Healthcare Professionals exceeding the limit of their participations in events held in Greece or abroad or who do not file to the company/sponsor a

certificate of attendance or who have not been granted a training leave from their employer, will not be granted sponsorship for their participation for a period of one (1) year for any Scientific Event.

**13. Hospitals, University clinics, laboratories, NHS clinics can only organise, alone or jointly, Scientific Events.** The term of these events cannot exceed a period of two days and the sponsorship from all companies/sponsors may amount to a total of €1,500 per day.

- With free participation
- Near the city where the Hospital is located (within the borders of a former prefecture or adjacent former prefecture)
- Preferably in the amphitheatre of the Hospital
- Without any stands of pharmaceutical Companies

**14.** Accommodation of healthcare professionals in scientific events/conferences held abroad must be in 4-star hotels and only in special occasions in 5-star hotels following justification.

**15.** The total cost (stay and sustenance) of the healthcare professionals in scientific events/conferences held abroad is set as follows: **€280.00 maximum stay cost, VAT not included and €70.00 maximum sustenance cost, VAT not included).**

**16.** The accommodation cost (stay and sustenance) of healthcare professionals in Scientific events/conferences held in Greece cannot exceed €250.00 per day, €70.00/per day for sustenance expenses, not VAT included and €180.00/per day for accommodation, no VAT included.

**17.** A ceiling at the hotel expenses for domestic events is set out, based on the overnight price and not any evaluation based on the hotel stars.

**18.** Addition of one more period for the filing of applications (March) for Type A Domestic Events.

**19.** The coverage of the expenses of any accompanying members by the companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction is prohibited (Joint Ministerial Decision NO ΔΥΓ3α/οικ.82161/24.8.2012).

**20. Granting of access to Scientific Events/Conferences and/or research events held Abroad or in Greece to healthcare professionals via the internet**

Companies with products under EOF's jurisdiction may financially support healthcare professionals (individually or in groups), by granting access codes for the continuance of training through the use of technology.

A necessary condition for the financing of (group/individual) attendance in Domestic scientific events via the internet is that the scientific agency organising the event has obtained the approval of EOF for the event, including the broadcasting.

Only the offer of coffee/ refreshment drinks is permitted in group attendance and the expenses for the premises and facilities may be covered by the pharmaceutical company.

**21. Convocation of a wider meeting from the agencies involved i.e. EOF, KESY, SFEE, PEF, SEPTE, SAFEE**

Four (4) times a year, a wider meeting will be convoked from the agencies involved, i.e. EOF, KESY, SFEE, PEF, SEPTE, SAFEE for the purposes of informing, exchanging views for the application of the circular and interventions will be suggested within the transparency framework, which will be of joint acceptance and for the mutual benefit.

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