



LICENSE TO HEAL

ADOPTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS

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A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines. Also in developed European countries the costs of new and expensive medicines can cause problems of accessibility. High prices of drugs threaten every patient's' right to treatment.

About a quarter of the available drugs were discovered by knowledge institutions such as universities. The government finances medical scientific research, but sets no conditions on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication. This leaves pharmaceutical companies free to ask high prices which cannot be accounted for by research and development costs. The pharmaceutical industry is a billion-dollar organization operating on international level and thus action is necessary on an international level.

The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines provides valuable recommendations for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient inconsistencies between public health, medical innovation and the current research investment incentives and legal framework. Also, the UN Human Rights Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as a fundamental human right. The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting numerous areas where member states can take immediate action. However, today the European Union invests 1.6 billion euros in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a partnership of the EU with the pharmaceutical industry, without requiring conditions directed at access to the resulting drugs.

Medicine and other medical products should be accessible to everyone. The human right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining societies. To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the development and purchasing of medicine need to take responsibility. It is necessary for countries to implement policies and collaborate with other countries to safeguard the accessibility of drugs.

The Federation of Young European Greens calls upon the EU, the governments of EU member states and other European states to:

- » implement measures to better the accessibility of medicine.
- » require research institutions to responsibly license new active pharmaceutical ingredients which are discovered by these institutions using public funding. Preferably by incorporating the following criteria in the license agreements:
 1. Require the licensee to be transparent about the added value and cost structure of a drug (including marketing costs, public R&D investments and tax rebates).
 2. To require the licensee to ensure access to the drug originating from such institutions by asking a responsible price
- » Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain bargaining power and ensure their accessibility of medicine and the sustainability of healthcare systems.
- » Stimulate the European Commission to take the following measures:
 1. Promote the accessibility of medicines in all countries, especially low- and middle income countries through non-exclusive licenses of European public research in these countries;
 2. Implement criteria for funding the Innovative Medicines Initiative. The Innovative Medicines Initiative should safeguard the access to the resulting drugs of this programme.