



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

14.7.2014

B8-0150/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on patient access to the hepatitis C drug Sofosbuvir at affordable prices

Nuno Melo

B8-0150/2014

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on patient access to the hepatitis C drug Sofosbuvir at affordable prices

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is estimated that around 170 million people are chronic carriers of hepatitis, 9 million of whom are European citizens;
- B. whereas in Portugal the innovative hepatitis C drug Sofosbuvir will cost around EUR 48 000, which is the price at which it is marketed by the North American pharmaceutical company Gilead;
- C. whereas this is the first drug that has allowed 90% cure rates for all genotypes of the virus and it has a favourable safety profile;
- D. whereas in many cases the prices quoted by the pharmaceutical industry represent a significant barrier to patient access to treatment in Europe;
- E. whereas it is vital that the cost of drugs used in treatment takes account of national health budgets, striking the necessary balance between access to innovative drugs and sustainable national health systems;
- 1. Recalls that it is an ethical imperative to ensure that all patients can be treated, and it is also an economic imperative, since the system cannot be entirely devoted to a particular disease or geared to the purposes of a single pharmaceutical company;
- 2. Urges the EU to define general principles and common methodologies that could be applied to other similar situations, outlining a common European strategy that would include a joint negotiating process with the pharmaceutical industry;
- 3. Urges the EU to outline a common approach that will guarantee patient access to the hepatitis C drug Sofosbuvir, in particular by establishing correction factors that will make it possible to index the price to Member States' GDP.