

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1812/01  
by Hervé Novelli (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Directive on transparency and reimbursement of medicinal products

Directive 89/105/EEC<sup>1</sup> on transparency of prices and reimbursement of medicinal products ought to have given patients speedier access to new medicines on the market. Ten years later, statistics show it has had no effect. It has not improved patients' access to new treatments.

There has been no reduction in the time needed to put these products on sale and the time needed to decide on prices and reimbursement very often exceeds the 180 days laid down in the directive, especially in France. The usual reason appears to be over-heavy administration.

If the Commission is concerned to give patients equal access to medicines in the European Union, should it not make the Member States aware of the disparities between one country and another?

Could we not envisage a reform in procedure that would give patients immediate access to new medicines at provisional prices and reimbursement rates, while the Member States and the pharmaceutical industry negotiate the definitive rates?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 40, 11.2.1989, p. 8.