



# Towards improved availability of medicines in Europe

Annual Report 2019



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*“The last 60 years have seen many changes in the provision of healthcare and pharmacy practice has evolved and improved together with European healthcare systems. Community pharmacists are ready to further develop their role in providing high-quality patient care and prevention services and promoting the safe and effective use of medicines and medical devices.”*

## *Foreword by Michal Byliniak, PGEU President 2019*

2019 marked PGEU 60th anniversary. This celebration was an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the community pharmacists' vital contribution to the health of people over the last decades and discuss with EU officials, representatives of patients, other health care professionals, and the healthcare industry on how to shape the pharmacy of the future to better meet patients' needs.

The last 60 years have seen many changes in the provision of healthcare and pharmacy practice has evolved and improved together with European healthcare systems. During a special event that PGEU organized in the European Parliament in September to mark this important milestone it was highlighted that community pharmacists are ready to further develop their role in providing high-quality patient care and prevention services and promoting the safe and effective use of medicines and medical devices.

This has also been a critical year in shaping the future work of the European Institutions with the elections of the European Parliament and the setting up of the new European Commission which has been an unprecedented opportunity for EU policy makers to determine the course of EU action on health issues. During this year, PGEU has strongly advocated for the EU institutions maintaining health policy high in the EU agenda as well as for the continuation of a comprehensive and coherent EU approach on this area.

PGEU has achieved many things over the last year and I am proud to say that one of them was the adoption of the PGEU Paper 'Pharmacy 2030: A vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe'. This paper outlines the challenges and opportunities facing community pharmacists in the next decade and their role in ensuring quality of care and patient safety, improving public health, guaranteeing access to medicines and healthcare services, and contributing to the future sustainability of healthcare systems. It also provides several best practices and examples at Member State level which demonstrate, inter alia, that the public health mission of community pharmacists extends far beyond simply the use and management of medicines. The paper also makes a number

of recommendations to maximize the benefits of the community pharmacist's intervention for patients and healthcare system.

Furthermore, in 2019, we also dealt with very important legal and policy dossiers ranging from PGEU involvement in the operational phase of the Falsified Medicines Directive (through its participation in the European Medicines Verification Organisation), the European Commission strategy on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, big data and artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Last but not least, medicines shortages have been very high on PGEU agenda over the past year. Unfortunately, the unavailability of medicines is on the rise in Europe and no single EU country now underestimate its tremendous impact on patients. Medicine shortages occur across all healthcare settings and involve both essential life-saving medicines and very commonly used drugs. Community pharmacists are very concerned about this phenomenon, which can compromise patients' health. Moreover, pharmacies and pharmacists invest a lot of resources dealing with shortages which constitutes not only a financial burden but also a loss of opportunity to spend time with other patient-centred tasks and to improve the quality of care.

PGEU published a position paper revealing the results of an internal survey on shortages experienced by community pharmacies in 24 countries and collecting the solutions which are offered by community pharmacies to ensure continuity of treatment for the patients they serve. In this paper PGEU also makes some recommendations to the EU Institutions, Member States and supply chain actors for coordinated actions that should be taken at different policy levels to reduce the burden of medicine shortages on the public, healthcare professionals and supply chain actors.

It has been a privilege for me to have served as President of PGEU and I really enjoyed this rewarding and unique experience. I feel very proud to be part of this big family which is PGEU and I trust together our work will continue enabling the pharmacy profession to move forward.



## *About PGEU*

*The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) is the association representing Europe's community pharmacists. PGEU members are the national associations and professional bodies of community pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EU candidate countries and EFTA members.*

*PGEU's vision is to see community pharmacists recognised as key health professionals delivering a dynamic, sustainable and evolving contribution to the health of individual communities while strengthening Europe's health systems. Europe's community pharmacists work at the heart of communities, providing high-quality professional advice on the safe, effective and rational use of medicines. Often, they are the first and the last point of contact between the patients and the health system; as such, they make an invaluable contribution to the health of over 500 million people throughout Europe.*

# 2019 at a Glance



January

On the 30th of January, PGEU participated to the **European Economic and Social Committee public hearing on Digital Health Literacy**. The hearing focused on the role of healthcare professionals in managing health illiteracy and on their involvement and contribution for the safe implementation of digital tools in healthcare as well as the associated ethical aspects.



February

On the 1st of February, PGEU published its vision for the pharmacy profession in a paper titled “**Pharmacy 2030: A vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe**”.

On the 4th of February, PGEU participated in the **supply chain working group meeting on medicine shortages**. A representative from the French Chamber of Pharmacists, Mr. Frédéric Bassi, delivered a presentation on the Dossier Pharmaceutique Ruptures to showcase an example of a joint notification system for medicine shortages in the supply chain.

On the 8th of February, PGEU attended the **European Medicines Verification Organisation’s (EMVO) Press Conference** for the launch of the European Medicines Verification System.

On the 19th of February, PGEU published its **Position Paper on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare**.

On the 26th of February, PGEU welcomed **EU health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis** in a local community pharmacy to present him how the falsified medicine legislation is being implemented in practice. The Commissioner publicly thanked PGEU for having organised the visit.



March

On the 4th of March, PGEU President Michal Byliniak participated in a panel discussion at the **launch conference of the EU Coalition for Vaccination**, which is now co-chaired by the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) and PGEU. The EU Coalition for Vaccination brings together European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students’ associations in the field to commit to delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths and exchanging best practice. During the meeting, the objectives, mission statements, membership and potential future activities were discussed.

On the 12th of March, PGEU participated in a **meeting of the European Medicines Shortages Research Network (COST Action) on medicine shortages**. Updates from research projects on medicine shortages across different European countries were presented, and the working group’s objectives and future activities were discussed.



April

On the 10th of April, PGEU met with **Ms. Anne Bucher, Director General of the European Commission Directorate for health (DG SANTE)**. We presented the PGEU Vision Paper “Pharmacy 2030: A vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe” and we also discussed medicines shortages, e-health, vaccination and antimicrobial resistance.

On the 2nd and 3rd of April, PGEU members met in Athens in an event hosted by the **Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association** to discuss the latest EU regulatory developments and relevant economic trends in the pharmaceutical sector. Members of the Greek Parliament made some opening remarks to show their support to the pharmacy profession.

On the 16th of April, PGEU met with the **Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the Council of European Dentists (CED) and DG Environment** to discuss the follow-up of the Commission Communication on a European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, which has been published on 11th of March. The recommendations targeting healthcare professionals directly were clarified.



May

On the 3rd of May, PGEU participated in the **European Medicines Agency (EMA) Healthcare Professional Working Party (HCPWP) meeting**. During the meeting, updates were provided on the EMA relocation to Amsterdam, Brexit related activities and the HMA/EMA taskforce work on medicine shortages. The new mandate and work plan 2019-2022 of the HCPWP as well as an upcoming EMA initiative to explain evaluation procedures were discussed.

On the 16th and 17th of May, the PGEU President attended the **25th European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP) Conference “Creative education: towards competences in a patient-oriented pharmacy education”** in Krakow, Poland, and provided PGEU’s views on pharmacy education and on Big Data & Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare.

On the 19th of May, PGEU published the **Position Paper on Medicine Shortages**.



June

On the 14th of June, PGEU organized the **PGEU Annual Symposium “Advancing Safe and Accessible Healthcare Delivery for European Communities”** in Krakow, Poland.

Distinguished speakers, including representatives from the Polish Ministry of Health, the European Commission and EMVO as well as representatives from the European pharmaceutical industry, the wholesalers and community pharmacists, discussed, inter alia, about medicines shortages and the implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive.

On the 19th of June, PGEU participated in the **High-Level conference on the European retail sector**, organized by the European Commission in Brussels. The conference focused on innovation trends in retail, regulatory developments, current and future regulatory challenges, and the role of small retailers in the revitalization of towns.

July

On the 1st of July, PGEU met with the **Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)**, Prof. Guido Rasi. At the meeting, PGEU presented its Vision Paper "Pharmacy 2030: A vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe" and discussed with Prof. Rasi the arising problem of medicine shortages, the work of the EMA/HMA on medicines availability, electronic package leaflets and pharmacovigilance, and the long-standing cooperation between EMA and PGEU.

September

On the 4th of September, PGEU met with **Ms Pilar Aguar, Head of the Health Unit at the European Commission Directorate in charge of Research and Innovation** and her team to discuss the **new European Commission Horizon Europe research programme**. We presented PGEU and the key role of community pharmacists in health innovation. We also explored possibilities for national community pharmacists' organizations to receive funding under the new Horizon Europe Research programme.

On the 10th of September, PGEU organised the **60th Anniversary Event "Community Pharmacists at the heart of the European communities: PGEU Vision 2030"** in the European Parliament in Brussels. This occasion was an opportunity to acknowledge the community pharmacists' vital contribution to the health of people over the last decades and discuss how to shape the pharmacy of the future to better meet patients' needs. The event brought together several Members of the European Parliament, senior officials from the European Commission and OECD, representatives of patients, other health care professionals organizations, the healthcare industry and PGEU members to discuss the role of community pharmacists in guaranteeing access to medicines and contributing to the sustainability of healthcare systems.

On the 12th of September, PGEU attended the **Global Vaccination Summit held by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Commission (EC)** in Brussels.

On the 23rd of September, PGEU met with other European stakeholders and with **Dr. Andrzej Rys, Director on Health systems, medical products and innovation at European Commission** to discuss medicines shortages in the EU. The meeting served to allow stakeholders to present practical solutions to address medicines shortages.

October

On the 9th of October, together with the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM), the Council of European Dentists (CED), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA), the European Patients Forum (EPF), the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP), EuroHealthNet, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE), PGEU held a **debate entitled "EU 2019-2024: Health Champions Wanted"** to identify the key health policy challenges for the European Union in the upcoming years. The goal of the event was to raise awareness on the main public health priorities including universal access to high quality and sustainable healthcare, disease prevention, the fight against cross-border healthcare threats and health inequities, as well as a continued supply of medicines for EU citizens. PGEU Secretary General intervened in the second panel entitled 'EU response to health challenges' and spoke about medicine shortages.

On 15th of October, PGEU met with **MEP Olivier Chastel (Renew Europe, Belgium)** together with the Belgium Pharmaceutical Association (Association Pharmaceutique Belge, A.P.B.). We discussed the recent European Parliament Budget Committee report on cross border health care and shortages of medicines.

November

On the 13th November, PGEU attended the **Autumn Meeting on medicines shortages organised by GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Industry**. Speakers discussed the need for involvement of all stakeholders in a warning system on shortages and on the importance of timely communication from manufacturers alerting of upcoming shortages.

On the 14th of November, PGEU published the **Position Paper on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment**.

December

On the 4th of December, the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the Council of European Dentists (CED), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and PGEU, together with the student associations (European Medical Students' Association (EMSA), European Dentists Students' Association (EDSA), International Association of Veterinary Students (IVSA) and European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA)) organised the regional conference **"Implementation of One Health in Undergraduate Education"** in Warsaw, Poland. The objective of the event was to encourage an open discussion and exchange views on how to implement the One Health approach in undergraduate education and foster interdisciplinary education in eastern European countries (namely, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia).

On the 12th December, PGEU met with **MEP Tsvetelina Penkova (Bulgaria, S&D)** to present our Vision Paper and explain PGEU policy priorities. An economist by training, Ms Penkova is sitting at the Committee on Budgetary Control and is a substitute in IMCO. We gave her an overview of community pharmacists' role on primary care across Europe and discussed the contribution of community pharmacies to the sustainability and resilience of Member States' healthcare systems.



## Pharmacy 2030: A Vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe

On the 1st of February, PGEU published its vision for the pharmacy profession in a paper titled “Pharmacy 2030: A vision for Community Pharmacy in Europe”. This paper outlines the challenges and opportunities facing community pharmacists in the coming years and their role in ensuring quality of care and patient safety, improving public health, guaranteeing access to medicines and healthcare service, and contributing to the future sustainability of healthcare systems.



## Position Paper on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

On the 19th of February, PGEU published its Position Paper on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. The paper acknowledges the value Big Data and AI can have for European health systems and considers these technologies as a useful tool to be always accompanied by the community pharmacists’ expert and professional advice, in order to deliver more efficient, sustainable and high-quality healthcare services to the patients.



## Position Paper on Medicine Shortages

On the 19th of May, PGEU published the Position Paper on Medicine Shortages. The paper provides information about the rise of medicine shortages in Europe and its impact on patients and the community pharmacy practice. In addition, the paper recommends key policy actions that should be taken at European and national levels to reduce the burden of medicine shortages on the public, healthcare professionals and supply chain actors.



## Position Paper on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

On the 14th of November, PGEU published the Position Paper on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment. This paper aims to reinforce community pharmacists’ commitment to reduce and prevent the impact of pharmaceuticals in the environment and position themselves to increase public awareness, promote the prudent use and correct disposal of pharmaceuticals, and provide advice on the availability of “greener” pharmaceuticals where such information is available.



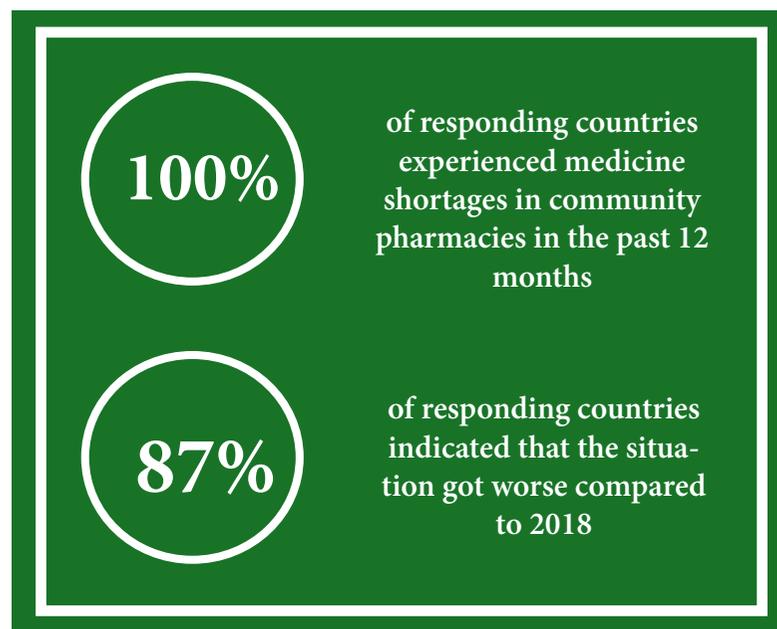
# Towards improved availability of medicines in Europe - The Role of Community Pharmacists

Medicines shortages are one of the biggest barriers towards patients' access to medicines in Europe. Today, community pharmacists still manage to ensure continuity of care and minimise the impact on their patients' health status in most cases. However, several barriers should be removed to further support community pharmacists in this key role, considering that the impact of medicine shortages is increasing every day.

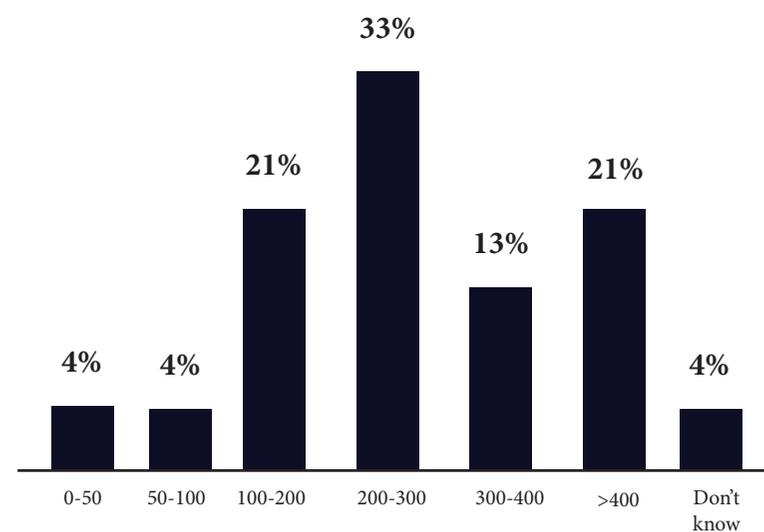
The results of the PGEU Medicine Shortages Survey 2019, conducted among the PGEU membership, highlighted that the unavailability of medicines continues to rise in Europe and have a tremendous impact on patients and pharmacy practice.

These are some of the key figures providing an overview of the situation in pharmacies across Europe. They point to the existing gap in needed information, tools and legal options available to community pharmacists in many European countries for providing solutions to patients in case of a shortage.

## Incidence of medicine shortages across Europe



Amount of medicines that were short in supply at the time of completing the survey (% of responding countries):



### Medicines that have been short in supply (% of responding countries)

Biological medicines	42%
Vaccines	75%
Hormonal replacement therapies/contraceptives	63%
Dermatological medications	58%
Eye, ear and nose medications	79%
Medications used for musculoskeletal and joint diseases	71%
Nutrition-related products	50%
Immunosuppressant medications	71%
Cancer medications	67%
Obstetric/gynaecological/urinary-tract medications	67%
Endocrine medications	79%
Antimicrobial medications	63%
Medications affecting the centralnervous system	88%
Respiratory medicines	96%
Cardiovascular medications	88%
Gastro-intestinal medications	83%
Generic medications	83%
Branded medications	83%
Life-saving medications	58%



### Availability of a reporting system for shortages which can be used by community pharmacists at national level

25% of responding countries indicated that there is still no reporting system for shortages in place which can be used by community pharmacists in their country, despite that pharmacists often experience or foresee supply difficulties before the industry or wholesalers are aware that there is or will be a problem.

Community pharmacists receive their needed information on shortages in most countries from wholesalers (71%), medicines agencies (67%) and pharmacy organisations (42%).

All responding countries experienced medicine shortages in community pharmacies in the past 1 month, and in the vast majority (87%) of responding countries indicated that the situation got worse compared to 2018.

In the majority of responding countries (67%), over 200 medicines were listed as in short supply at the time of completing this survey, with 5 countries indicating that there were even more than 400 medicines short in supply.

All classes of medicines are affected by medicine shortages in community pharmacies across the different responding European countries. Respiratory medications have been short in supply in the highest percentage of countries (87%) whilst biological medicines have been short in supply in the lowest percentage of countries (42%).

### Perceived impact of medicine shortages on community pharmacy practice

# 100%

All responding countries believe that medicine shortages caused distress and inconvenience to patients.

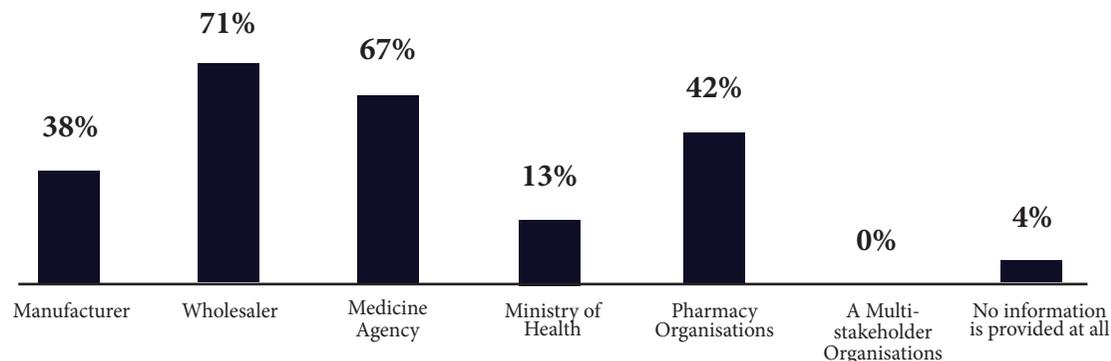


Medicine shortages are believed to affect community pharmacy business in most countries by leading to reduced patients trust (92%), financial loss due to time invested in mitigating shortages (82%), reduced employee satisfaction (79%), financial loss due to needed operational changes such as minimum stock keeping, import fees, etc. (54%), and direct financial loss due to increased sourcing prices as a reaction to low availability of a certain medicine (38%).

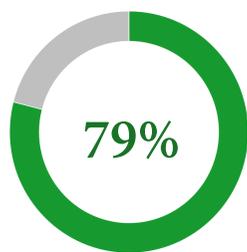


All responding countries indicated that they believe medicine shortages cause distress and inconvenience to patients. Interruption of treatments (75% of countries), increased co-payments as a result of more expensive/non-reimbursed alternatives (58%) and suboptimal treatment/inferior efficacy (42%) are also perceived as negative consequences of medicine shortages on patients.

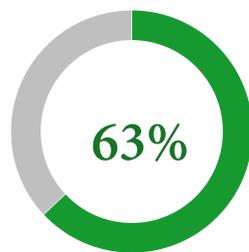
### Information provider on medicine shortages to pharmacists (% of responding countries):



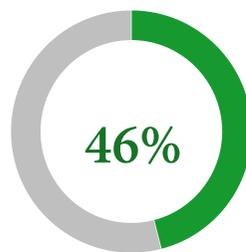
Legal solutions that can be offered by community pharmacists in case of medicine shortages (% of responding countries):



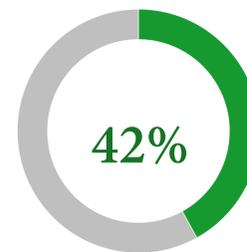
Generic substitution



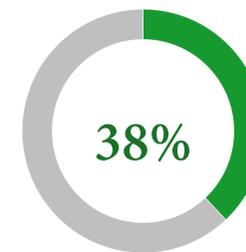
Sourcing the same medicine from alternative authorised source



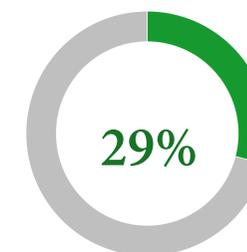
Importing the medicine from another country



Changing to the same medicine with a different strength



Compounding

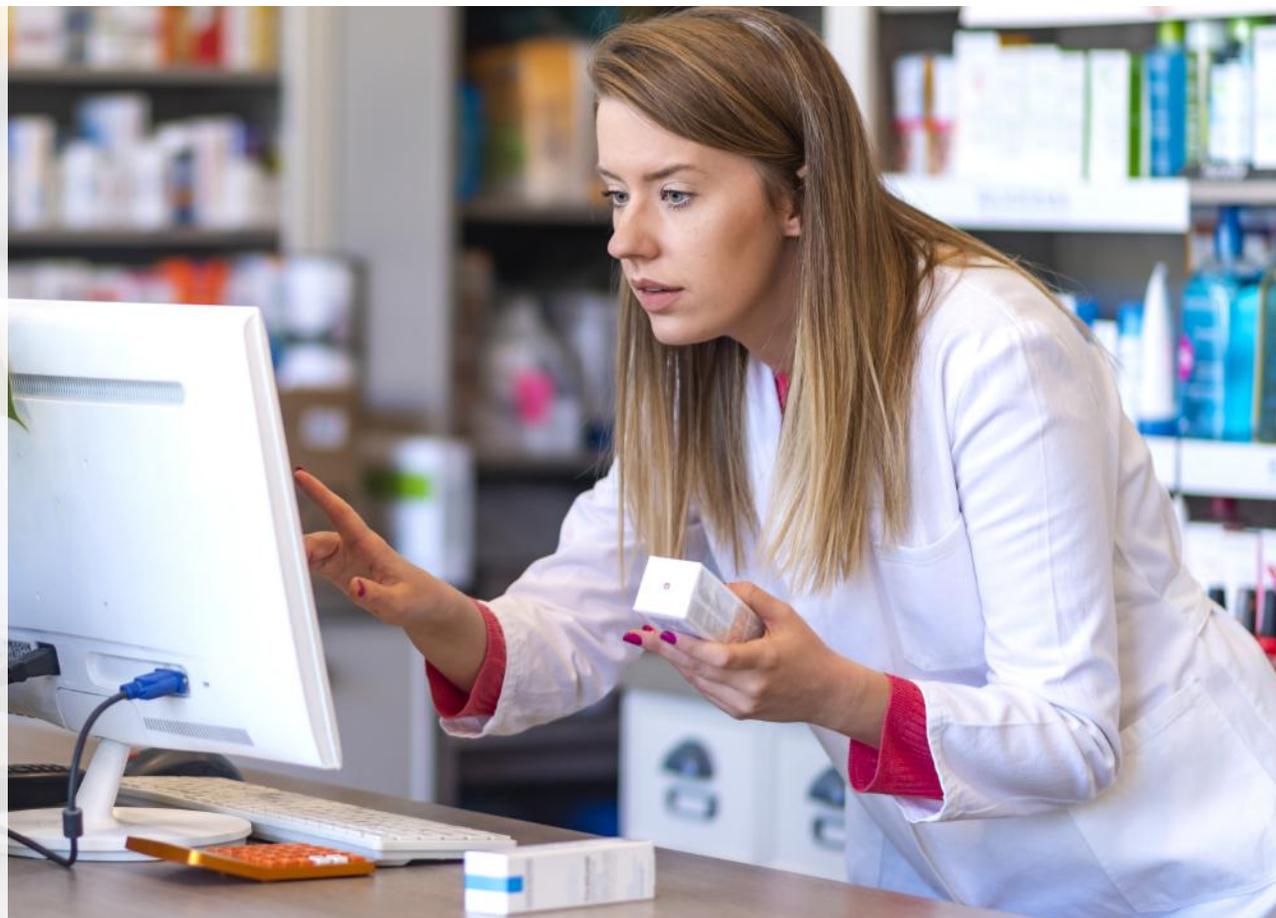


Therapeutic substitution



**6.6 hours**

on average, the time pharmacy staff has to spend on dealing with medicine shortages has increased from 5.6 to 6.6 hours per week as compared to 2018.



## PGEU recommendations on medicine shortages

PGEU calls for a number of coordinated actions that should be taken at different policy levels to reduce the burden of medicine shortages on the public, healthcare professionals and supply chain actors:



### Ensure availability

All stakeholders and governments must put patients' needs first when developing business policies, national laws and strategies that can affect the timely and adequate supply of medicines. Equally, effective compliance with EU and national laws related to the public service obligations of supply chain actors needs to be assured.



### Widen professional competence

The scope of pharmacy practice should be extended when medicines are in short supply, so pharmacists can use their skills and knowledge to better manage patient care and ensure continuity of treatment. Shared electronic communication tools offer opportunities for an effective and close collaboration with prescribers in order to ensure continuity of care and patient safety.



### Develop effective governance systems

A close collaboration between EU Member States and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is needed especially to improve reporting, monitoring and communication on medicine shortages. At national level, more structural, timely and transparent collaboration models between supply chain stakeholders and national competent authorities must be developed.



### Compensate financial impact

The negative financial impact of medicine shortages on patients should be compensated through appropriate reimbursement and remuneration provisions. The resource investment by pharmacists and pharmacies should equally be recognized and valued.



### Improve communication

Effective communication frameworks between all medicine supply chain actors and national competent authorities should be set up to ensure that community pharmacists have timely information on a (foreseen) medicine shortage.



## Pharmacists' solutions for medicine shortages

Searching for solutions to ensure continuity of treatment due to medicine shortages has become a daily activity of community pharmacists in Europe. However, the type of solutions community pharmacists can offer to patients differ between European countries as a result of national legislation and regulation. In 2019, several European countries introduced new measures to extend the scope of pharmacy practice so that they can ensure continuity of care for patients. Here are some recent examples:

### 1 United Kingdom – Serious Shortages Protocol

The UK Department of Health introduced in early 2019 the possibility for pharmacists to supply an alternative product in instances of a serious shortage of a specific named product following a defined Serious Shortages Protocol (SSP). The protocols give community pharmacies the ability to dispense less, or give a different strength, or pharmaceutical form, or provide an alternative generic product, or provide an alternative product; following appropriate discussions with the patient. These protocols are fixed with a start and end date, and are developed with the involvement of clinicians. So far, the UK has had two protocols in place.

### 2 Belgium – New Medicine Shortages Law

In December 2019, the Belgian parliament approved a new law to combat medicine shortages. Among the measures, community pharmacists may now substitute a medicine notified as a shortage with another medicine containing the same pharmaceutical ingredient, in accordance with the national medicine agency's (FAMHP) guidelines and if the doctor has not raised any objections. The patient is then informed about the substitution.

### 3 Netherlands – Data on solutions for medicine shortages

The Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP) medicine shortages platform Farmanco assessed that in 99% of cases, pharmacists were able to provide a solution for medicine shortages. In 73% of cases, substitution was possible with a medicine of the same active pharmaceutical ingredient, whilst in 21% of cases a therapeutic alternative was needed. The results also showed that medicine shortages in the Netherlands doubled compared to 2018.



## Best Practices - A way forward

Here are some of the latest best practices in community pharmacy across Europe and their beneficial outcomes for patient care and health service resilience:

### France: Advanced pharmacy services introduced throughout 2019

In line with a new Health Strategy, several advanced pharmacy services were introduced in 2019 or are awaiting implementation in 2020:



**Pharmacist-delivered vaccination** became part of the legal missions that can be carried out by community pharmacists throughout the country in March 2019. First figures showed that, 5 weeks into 2019-2020 flu season,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of vaccinated patients had got vaccinated in a pharmacy. Overall, more than 2 million patients had got vaccinated in community pharmacies at that point.



**Rapid StrepTest:** to avoid unnecessary antibiotic treatment for throat infections, French community pharmacists can now perform a rapid streptococcus test to identify whether the infection is of viral or bacterial origin. The test, which is reimbursed, can both be performed upon conditional prescription of an antibiotic by the physician or as a measure of triage in the pharmacy.



**Therapeutic substitution** in case of a shortage of major therapeutic interest. The substituted product with an alternative agent is defined by the French Medicine Agency ANSM.



**Simplified Liaising Pharmacist scheme :** pharmacists can renew treatments and adjust dosages for chronic patients, subject to prior agreement of the family doctor (awaiting regulations).



**Minor Ailment Service scheme:** the ability to dispense prescription-only medicines designed for minor ailments in specific cases, following strict protocols provided by health authorities (waiting for implementation in 2020).



**Telecare:** the option for a pharmacist to perform certain pharmaceutical interventions remotely, provided the patient has previously benefited from face to face care or medicines use review for poly medication or chronic disease (awaiting regulations).

## Scotland: High levels of satisfaction and trust in the Scottish minor ailment service

Since 2006, Scottish patients can use the pharmacy of their choice as the first point of call for the treatment of common illnesses on the NHS through Minor Ailment Service (MAS). The service allows patients to go directly to their pharmacist for minor health concerns, helps people to improve their self-care of certain limiting conditions and it is also intended to combat health inequalities. In 2019, independent research demonstrated the high levels of satisfaction, positive perceptions of consultations and trust in the MAS. It showed that almost 90% of participants rated the overall service 10 out of 10 for satisfaction and the overwhelming majority rated their experience of consultations as 'Excellent'. In April 2020, the Minor Ailment Service will be replaced with the new NHS Pharmacy First Service, introducing changes to the remuneration model and widening eligibility for the service in order to increase the overall accessibility to the service.



## Portugal: Pharmacy pilot increases flu vaccination by 32%

Pharmacists in Portugal have been providing vaccination services for 10 years. Patients need a medical prescription and the vaccine is not reimbursed. However, a new initiative trialled in Loures, a town north of Lisbon, expanded its services to make it easier for people to receive the flu vaccine in their community pharmacy. The pilot project offered people aged 65 and over access to flu vaccination on the same terms as in National Health Service primary care units: They did not need a prescription and there was no administration fee. Initial results from the pilot show an increase of 31.8% in the vaccination coverage in Loures.



## *A look forward by Ilaria Passarani, PGEU Secretary General*

*“We will strive to translate into reality the PGEU Vision Paper 2030 and to unlock the great potential of community pharmacists in improving patients care and strengthening European health care systems.”*

Medicine shortages have been our top priority in 2019 and they will remain so also in 2020. We will continue working closely with the EU Institutions – including the European Medicines Agency and Heads of Medicines Agency taskforce on medicines availability – and all the stakeholders of the pharmaceutical supply chain to identify effective solutions to this problem and ensure that all patients across Europe have timely access to their treatments. We will advocate for a number of coordinated actions to reduce the burden of medicine shortages, including guaranteeing availability, widening the scope of pharmacy practice allowing pharmacists to use their skills to guaranteeing continuity of care, improving communication between all medicine supply chain actors and competent authorities, and developing effective governance systems.

Antimicrobial resistance, vaccination hesitancy and the recent public health emergency generated by the spread of the novel corona virus (COVID19) are putting an unprecedented pressure on European public health systems. In this context, we will promote the vital role of pharmacists both as providers of health services and as a trusted source of high-quality health information for European citizens.

In 2020, we will bring the voice of community pharmacists in the definition of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe announced by the European Commission and of the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. We will also contribute to ensuring the full implementation of the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance and of the Falsified Medicines Legislation.

In the coming months, we will also follow the negotiations between the EU and the UK to understand the impact of Brexit on community pharmacists on both sides of the Channel, in particular, with regard to the availability of medicines and medical devices and to the recognition of professional qualifications.

Other important priorities for PGEU in 2020 will be Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, pharmaceuticals in the environment and pharmacists’ education and training.

We will strive to translate into reality the PGEU Vision Paper 2030 and to unlock the great potential of community pharmacists in improving patients care and strengthening European health care systems.





# *PGEU Secretariat*



**Ilaria Passarani**  
Secretary General



**Carolina Martinez-Berganza**  
Legal Advisor



**Antonio Grasso**  
Economic and Information Analyst



**Jan De Belie**  
Professional Affairs Advisor



**Audrey van Coillie**  
Senior Office Manager



**Tilen Kozole**  
EPSA Officer



**Sanja Aleksić**  
EPSA Officer

# PGEU Executive Committee 2019



## Members of the PGEU Executive Committee 2019

Česká lékárnická komora (Czech Chamber of Pharmacists)

ABDA - Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Apothekerverbände (Federal Union of German Pharmacists Associations)

Πανελλήνιος Φαρμακευτικός Σύλλογος (Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association)

Naczelna Izba Aptekarska (Polish Pharmaceutical Chamber)

Associação Nacional das Farmácias (National Association of Pharmacies)

Ordem dos Farmacêuticos (Pharmaceutical Society)

Lekarniška Zbornica Slovenije (Slovenian Chamber of Pharmacy)

Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Farmaceuticos España (General Council of Spanish Pharmacists)



# PGEU Members



## PGEU Ordinary Members 2019

Österreichische Apothekerkammer

Österreichischer Apothekerverband

A.P.B - Association Pharmaceutique Belge/Algemene Pharmaceutische

Bond Orde der Apothekers – Ordre des Pharmaciens

Български фармацевтичен съюз

Hrvatska Ljekarnička Komora

Hrvatsko Farmaceutsko Društvo

Παγκύπριος Φαρμακευτικός Σύλλογος (ΠΦΣ)

Česká lékárnická komora

Danmarks Apotekerforening

Eesti Apteekide Ühendus

Suomen Apteekkariliitto

Finlands Apotekareförbund

Fédération des Syndicats Pharmaceutiques de France

Ordre National des Pharmaciens - Conseil Central A

USPO - Union des Syndicats de pharmaciens d'officine

ABDA - Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Apothekerverbände

Πανελλήνιος Φαρμακευτικός Σύλλογος

Magyar Gyógyszerész Kamara

Irish Pharmacy Union

Federazione Ordini Farmacisti Italiani (FOFI)

Federfarma

Aptieku īpašnieku asociācija

Syndicat des Pharmaciens Luxembourgeois a.s.b.l.

Kamra ta`l-Ispizjara ta` Malta

KNMP - Koninklijke Nederlandse Maatschappij ter bevordering der

Pharmacie

Naczelna Izba Aptekarska

Associação Nacional das Farmácias

Ordem dos Farmacêuticos

Colegiul Farmacistilor din Romania

Slovenská Lekárnická Komora

Lekarniška Zbornica Slovenije

Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Farmaceuticos España

Sveriges Apoteksforening

National Pharmacy Association

Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland

Royal Pharmaceutical Society



## PGEU Observer Members 2019

Oda e Farmacistëve të Kosovës

Фармацевтска комора на Македонија

NAF – Apotekforeningen

Farmaceutska komora Srbije

Savez farmaceutskih udruženja Srbije

Udruženje Privatnih Apotekara Srbije

Türk Eczacıları Birliği





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