



PGEU PRESS RELEASE

23 November 2017

Embargoed until 23rd November

PGEU releases Opinion Paper 'The Community Pharmacy contribution to Sustainable Health Systems'

*The **Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)** is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists.*

PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA/EFTA members and EU applicant countries.

For more information, please visit the PGEU website www.pgeu.eu or contact j.svarcaite@pgeu.eu



Brussels, November 23, 2017: PGEU welcomes the release of the new deliverables of the 'State of Health in the EU' cycle, namely the Member States' country health profiles prepared by the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies along with the companion report prepared by the European Commission. In support of this initiative on the same day, PGEU releases its Opinion Paper '**The Community Pharmacy Contribution to Sustainable Health Systems**'.

The Paper highlights the vital role pharmacy already plays in ensuring access to high quality healthcare, as well as reducing the number of avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalisations across EU countries. The network of 160.000 community pharmacies in Europe provides a unique opportunity to further improve access to disease prevention programmes, immunisation and health screening through the provision of an increasing number of health services for all citizens.

To further enable community pharmacy to make a dynamic, sustainable, and evolving contribution to high quality, inclusive and sustainable health systems in Europe, PGEU recommends the following actions at national level:

- Expand community pharmacy services as an integral part of primary care;
- Better integrate community pharmacies in the primary care network and recognize community pharmacists as primary health care services providers;
- Improve access to innovative and/or specialty (biosimilars and biological) medicines by increasing the supply of these products via community pharmacies;
- Incentivize generics uptake by community pharmacy;
- Involve pharmacy in national action plans to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), improve vaccination coverage and risk minimization plans for other medicinal therapies.