

Martin Selmayr

Secretariat-General  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200/ Wetstraat 200  
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Belgium  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Dr. Selmayr,

CC: Vytenis Andriukaitis, Michel Barnier (Taskforce on Article 50), Guy Verhofstadt (Brexit Steering Group)

**Re: The European health community - Reaction to publication of the Commission's Brexit Contingency Action Plan and, the proposed Brexit Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration**

We are writing in relation to the Commission's Brexit Contingency Action Plans published on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Whilst the clarification on citizen's rights, and to a certain extent, Customs arrangements is welcome, the European health community is extremely concerned that the contingency plans contain no specific measures around continued collaboration in the areas of public health, health research, patient safety, access to pharmaceuticals, medical technologies and innovation.

Whilst the publication of the withdrawal agreement and political declaration is a welcome step, it has not alleviated the concerns of the entire European Healthcare community - that the needs of patients, their safety and the wider public health implications of Brexit have been adequately addressed through the negotiations.

The absence of a specific reference to the healthcare issues that have been raised by the broad healthcare community across the European Union represents a lost opportunity to protect patients and our healthcare systems from the consequences of Brexit.

The healthcare community supports the 'free trade area combining deep regulatory and customs cooperation' and proposed "cooperation in matters of health security" referred to in the political declaration. However, patients in the European Union and the UK would be better served by an explicit commitment to securing long-term, extensive cooperation around all relevant issues, including public health, the regulation and development of medicines and medical technologies, collaboration on clinical trials and medical research, health and research infrastructures and the European Reference Networks.

As the UK government and the European Union endeavour to go through the process of ratification of the agreement our hope is that this provides an opportunity for inclusion of specific references to healthcare that can protect the safety of patients and public health in Europe and UK.

On behalf of the European healthcare community.

*Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe  
European Association of Bioindustries (EuropaBio)  
European Blood Alliance (EBA)  
European Brain Council  
European Confederation of Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (EUCOPE)  
EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe*

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries (EFPIA)  
 European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)  
 European Industrial Pharmacists Group (EIPG)  
 European Patients' Forum (EPF)  
 European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE)  
 European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE)  
 Federation of European Dental Competent Authorities and Regulators (FEDCAR)  
 MedTech Europe  
 Medicines for Europe

