

Patients' confidence should be increased and they should be given an informed access to medicines

Patients' confidence should be increased and they should be given an informed access to medicines. Around this opinion, experts gathered at an international conference.

The event, part of the calendar of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the health sector, took place on 6 March 2018 in the National Palace of Culture.

Within the forum, discussions were held on topics related to accessibility of medicinal products, their therapeutic effects and the effectiveness of the use of public resources.

The participants gathered around the view that Europe has proven that the current regulatory framework for medicines should ensure patient safety and provide quality treatment through proven, effective therapies.

Participants discussed the need to apply the principle of proportionality in drug delivery, the need to take into account the specificities of EU Member States' drug policies and the possibility of finding a common national and European solution. One of the key messages was that medicinal products are specific commodities and the trade activities performed with them, and the control over shortages of medicinal products should be regulated by sustainable solutions.

Emphasis was placed on finding the balance between speed of regulatory approval and safety data for new drug therapies. The participants in the forum were convinced that national drug regulators needed reliable data on the effectiveness of therapies. In this context, it is of the utmost importance that the European Union should be consistent in its policies on both generic and innovative medicines that protect the interests of all European patients. The representatives of innovative and generic manufacturers, drug dealers and regulatory institutions established in the EU have declared to the conference participants their commitment to human health in future decision-making in this area, at national and European level.

The conference was attended by experts from the Member States of the European Union, the World Health Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency, the academic community, the industry and non-governmental organizations involved in the healthcare field.