



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

Medical societies urge Member States to support EU-level HTA

The legislative proposal on health technology assessment (HTA)¹ has received strong backing from the European Parliament² and across-the-board stakeholder support from patients³, physicians⁴ and industry⁵ alike.

Today, as the incoming Finnish EU Presidency prepares to take up the HTA legislative dossier, the Biomedical Alliance in Europe (BioMed Alliance), representing tens of thousands of healthcare professionals making daily use of health technologies, commends the dedication of previous EU Presidencies and it calls on the Council of the European Union to support the legislative proposal so that there can be a robust and effective framework for collaborative EU-level HTA.

Safe, effective and innovative health technologies play a fundamental role for the diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases. Joint clinical HTA assessment with uniform methodology, and based on the jointly selected best available evidence, is thus crucial for high-quality and equitable healthcare across the EU. Cooperation in HTA has the potential to streamline regulatory procedures, avoid duplication, shorten times for decision-making, and use public and private human and financial resources more efficiently, thereby boosting both the value and affordability of patient care across Europe. The impact of HTA can be enhanced if doctors and patient community are adequately involved throughout the entire process, including in horizon-scanning, joint scientific advice and clinical assessment.

As it recognises the importance of balancing carefully national and EU competences, the BioMed Alliance supports amendments adopted by the European Parliament that ensure that Member States retain the possibility of performing complementary assessments where justified, and that preserve the distinction between joint clinical assessments and pricing and reimbursement decisions, with the latter remaining the sole responsibility of Member States.

In view of the above, and in recognition of the 10+ years of collaborative work and many millions of EU funding invested in the development of a sustainable European network on HTA⁶, the BioMed Alliance

¹ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU

² [European Parliament legislative resolution](#) of 14 February 2019

³ See for instance the [position](#) of the European Patients Forum (EPF) on the HTA proposal, May 2018

⁴ See joint statement on HTA drafted by ESC, 28 September 2018

⁵ [EFPIA position](#) on proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on HTA and amending Directive 2011/24/EU

⁶ In 2004, the [European Commission](#) and Council of Ministers requested the establishment of a sustainable European network on HTA. This was initiated in 2005 with the EUnetHTA 1 project (2006-2008). Since then three Joint Actions (EUnetHTA JA) have been carried out: EUnetHTA 1 from 2010-2012 (budget EUR 6 million), and EUnetHTA 2 from 2012-2015 (budget EUR 9.5 million). EUnetHTA 3 (budget EUR 20 million) was launched in June 2016 and runs until 2020.



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urges the Council to devote the necessary attention to the proposal for collaborative EU-level HTA without delay, and with positive consideration to support the European Parliament amendments.

The medical societies united in the BioMed Alliance are uniquely equipped to contribute the knowledge needed for the evaluation of new technologies against existing ones, based on clinical practice. Our experts remain available to elaborate on the scientific basis for their support for EU-level HTA, and to contribute to future joint clinical assessments.

[About the Biomedical Alliance in Europe \(BioMed Alliance\)](#)

The Biomedical Alliance in Europe is a non-profit organisation representing 30 leading European research and medical societies uniting more than 400,000 researchers and healthcare professionals.