



International
Federation of
Pharmaceutical
Manufacturers &
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l'Industrie du
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News Release

IFPMA Supports Call for Extension of TRIPS Compliance Deadline for Least Developed Countries

Geneva, 10 February 2011 – The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) today expressed the research-based pharmaceutical industry's support for calls to extend the deadline for Least-Developed Countries to comply with the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Mr. David Brennan, President of the IFPMA and CEO of AstraZeneca, said: "We recognize the significant development challenges experienced by Least-Developed Countries and believe that an extension would be useful to allow for effective TRIPS implementation. Such an extension should be used to align implementation across all areas of technology, to ensure a consistent approach. Our industry continues to believe that effective Intellectual Property Rights are a crucial component of long-term economic development within these countries, and international organizations and national bodies should continue to provide technical assistance, based on specific in-country needs."

(Ends)

Note to Editor

The WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement (1995) laid down transition provisions which gave various WTO Members periods of time to adapt their legislation and practices to meet their TRIPS obligations. Those periods differ according to the type of obligation in question and the level of development of the country concerned. The particular concerns and needs of least developed countries (LDCs) were recognized and the preamble acknowledged LDCs' particular need for maximum flexibility in implementing laws and regulations domestically, and therefore allowed them 10 years from 1995 to apply the bulk of TRIPS obligations. This general transition period could be extended in response to a specific request and in 2005 the TRIPS Council decided to extend the period until 2013. The IFPMA understands that it is this general transition period that certain WTO Member States may now be willing to extend further. Meanwhile, the 2001 Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health had already extended the period for least developed countries to comply with provisions on pharmaceuticals from 1 January 2006 to 1 January 2016.

About the IFPMA:

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry, including the biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 26 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry's R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal (www.ifpma.org/ClinicalTrials), the IFPMA's Ethical Promotion online resource (www.ifpma.org/EthicalPromotion/) and its Developing World Health Partnerships Directory (www.ifpma.org/HealthPartnerships) help make the industry's activities more transparent. The IFPMA supports a wide range of WHO technical activities, notably those relating to medicine efficacy, quality and safety, and coordinates industry participation in the WHO IMPACT initiative to combat counterfeit medicines. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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