

20.03.17

Minister Helena Dalli addresses the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products strategic review

"The EU's orphan legislation offer incentives for the development and marketing of drugs to treat, prevent, or diagnose rare conditions and have been essential in stimulating research and development of new orphan medicines for patients"

Addressing the opening session of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP), Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli lauded the Committee's invaluable contribution in enhancing and facilitating the development of innovative medicines for rare, low prevalence, and complex diseases and conditions.

Minister Dalli said that the achievement of COMP can be summarised by more than 1800 positive opinions for orphan medicinal product designation adopted from the 2,700 applications that have been reviewed since the year 2000. Some 60% of designated orphan medicines are intended for paediatric use.

Dalli described the committee as an excellent example of how the European medicines Agency has succeeded to pool national expertise for the benefit of patients throughout the entire European Community.

"The EU's orphan legislation offer incentives for the development and marketing of drugs to treat, prevent, or diagnose rare conditions and have been essential in stimulating research and development of new orphan medicines for patients", stated Minister Dalli.

The COMP meeting forms part of a series of twenty-two meetings being hosted as part of the Maltese Presidency, related to activities of the European Medicines Regulatory Network by the Malta Medicines Authority.

It is also being held simultaneously with a workshop on integrating research and healthcare for rare diseases, organised by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS).

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