

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.7.2025)

The Commission took note of the suggestions made by certain pharmaceutical companies on the introduction of a public European reference price with confidential rebates at Member State level, the elimination of spending caps, and a European spending target for innovative medicines.

Decisions on pricing and reimbursement for medicines are a Member State competence, as per Article 168(7) of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union. Medicine prices differ significantly across Member States depending on their health system needs, the medicine's therapeutic value for the Member State, and its financial capabilities, among other considerations.

The Commission supports and encourages cooperation on pricing, payment and procurement policies between Member States in the group of National Competent Authorities on Pricing and Reimbursement and Public Healthcare Payers. The Commission is also funding through the EU4Health Programme several activities which aim to foster price transparency and help Member States take better informed pricing and reimbursements decisions. This includes grants for the European Integrated Price Information Database, where Member States voluntarily share information on medicine prices, sales volumes, and the existence of Managed Entry Agreements.

The EU Health Technology Assessment Regulation¹ sets an EU framework to assess relative effectiveness of innovative medicinal products starting with new oncology treatments and Advanced Therapeutic Medicinal Products. These assessments, called joint clinical assessments, will provide Member States with evidence-based reports for pricing and reimbursement decisions.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU (Text with EEA relevance).