

European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Statement: EP ENVI vote on HTA

Today, Thursday 13 September, the European Parliament ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) Committee reached a landmark agreement on health technology assessment'.^[1]

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) commends Dr Soledad Cabezon Ruiz MEP, the shadow rapporteurs and all colleagues, for their work on this critical dossier. It now calls upon the European Parliament Plenary and the EU Member States to secure a positive outcome for EU-HTA, in line with what was laid down in today's approved ENVI report.

As healthcare professionals aiming to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in Europe and worldwide, we strongly support measures that improve patient access to effective novel healthcare technologies.

A mandatory system for joint clinical assessments will benefit patients by enhancing cooperation, and avoiding duplication of effort. Of course, collaboration in the clinical area is part of a complex process, and the ENVI suggestion to allow countries to perform complementary assessments where justified strikes a sound compromise.

We are particularly relieved to see that legislators appreciate the importance of ensuring equal treatment for medicinal products and medical devices, which should both undergo EU-level HTA. Indeed, drugs and devices are equally to be recognised for their positive and essential contribution to disease management.

The plan to make all documentation publicly available is also very positive news, as it is essential to guarantee that stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, are fully informed throughout the process.

Our hope now is that discussions may continue on a constructive and positive note. At the European Society of Cardiology we are keen to make available the scientific and clinical knowledge of our experts throughout the process so that the final EU law is fit for purpose, and that the resulting EU-HTA framework can bring real benefit in terms of improving patient outcomes across the EU.

About the European Society of Cardiology

The European Society of Cardiology brings together health care professionals from more than 150 countries, working to advance cardiovascular medicine and help people lead longer, healthier lives. www.escardio.org

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

To reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease. 

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