

PRESS RELEASE



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PSNC RESPONDS TO ABPI COMMENTS IN CHEMIST & DRUGGIST REGARDING PARALLEL EXPORTING

11 June 2009 – Following ABPI's comments in Chemist & Druggist magazine regarding parallel exporting, Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“European competition policy promotes a free market in medicines, and until recently the UK was a beneficiary of this, because prevailing prices in other European countries made importing financially attractive.

“The situation has now reversed, and although this trade is legitimate and encouraged by EU free market policy, PSNC has called on pharmacists to do everything they can to protect UK patients' access to prescription medicines.

“The proposals for distress stocks are intended only to provide a means of ensuring that in exceptional cases a pharmacy can meet an urgent need. It not a long term solution.

“Manufacturers cannot absolve themselves from responsibility simply by asserting that they have released adequate stocks into the UK market.

“PSNC is very disappointed that manufacturers have not been either proactive or responsive in dealing with the problem. We would like to see manufacturers taking greater responsibility in dealing with this issue, rather than simply blaming pharmacists. That is wrong and it will not help. The situation is irreconcilable so long as manufacturers take this position.

“There is now clearly a need for regulatory action to solve the problem - independent pharmacies have reported to us that they are spending around one hour every day sourcing medicines for patients - but the Department of Health will need to find a way of doing so that is compatible with European competition laws.”

~Ends~

*For further information please contact the PSNC press office
on 0207 618 9187 or at psnc@luther.co.uk.*

Notes to Editors

1. ABPI's comments featured in the Chemist & Druggist story “Pharma Boss: Parallel Trading Puts Patients At Risk” posted online by Chris Chapman on 11

June 2009 at

http://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/c/portal/layout?plid=259751&CMPI_SHARED_articleId=2570996&CMPI_SHARED_ImageArticleId=2570996&CMPI_SHARED_articleIdRelated=2570996&CMPI_SHARED_ToolsArticleId=2570996&CMPI_SHARED_CommentArticleId=2570996&articleTitle=Pharma%20boss:%20parallel%20trade%20puts%20patients%20at%20risk