Th. Tryfon: A sector is being dissolved, without any financial benefit

The President of the Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industry, Mr. Theodore Tryfon, is torrential about the changes imposed by the creditors. Mr. Tryfon speaks of a "targeted act" against Greek production. He also discusses illegitimate decisions that lead to "distortions of competition". How is the sector expected to react?

Mr. Theodore Tryfon, President of the Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industry, claims that the domestic pharmaceutical industry is being dissolved, without any resulting financial benefit. Talking to Euro2day.gr and iatronet.gr, Mr. Tryfon characterizes the recent interventions on the pricing of Greek generic drugs as **"targeted"** and **"irrational"**. He refers to measures which were imposed by the creditors, targeting Greek production – measures which are "illegitimate", since they lead to "**distortion of competition".** Mr. Tryfon also clarifies that an appeal will be lodged to the Hellenic Council of State, as well as the Competition Commission.

Mr. Tryfon mentions: "In 2014, the average retail price of domestic drugs was €7,8, out of which €4,5 end up in the pharmaceutical industry. Now they ask for this price to shrink to €1".

Furthermore, he characterizes the above propositions by the creditors, which were accepted by the Greek government, as a blatant intervention against the Greek pharmaceutical industry, while at the same time, the reductions in imported drugs are limited at a mere 2-3%.

Mr. Tryfon adds that today, domestic production represents 18% of expenditure, 60% of employment in the sector, and **90% of materialized investments**; yet, it is being asked to asymmetrically contribute to the intended expenditure reduction. He does not refuse the fact that cheaper generic drugs produced by third countries, such as China or India, do exist. However, he points out that, within the European framework, Greece has the lowest drug prices since 2012.

Invoking the example of the rest of Europe, he mentions that the basic pillars of pharmaceutical policy are: first and foremost a patient's access to the most appropriate and of highest quality treatment, as well as the sustainability of insurance funds, and on the other hand, the support of domestic production. He states: "Pharmaceutical expenditure originates from taxpayer's money. The matter at hand is to support the production of domestic added value".

Mr. Tryfon calls to mind **Mckinsey's** known study, in which domestic pharmaceutical industry is indicated as a sector with great developmental perspective.

He assesses that the interventions, regarding the reduction of prices and overall pharmaceutical expenditure, are not yielding any outcome; this is because structural measures, which will efficiently reduce the cost, are lacking. He adds: "Since 2009, drug prices have been reduced 45% and 65% for generics. Yet, the volume of prescriptions **has increased to 55-57 million."**

Mr. Tryfon clarifies that despite the Greek government's commitments, the Greek pharmaceutical industry will legally appeal against these particular decisions, which it considers illegitimate, since they distort competition.

He also emphasizes that the 22 Greek companies of the sector have maintained their employees and investments, and continue to claim their future in Greece, aiming at obtaining shares with cheap and quality drugs. In addition, he sees an outlet for all innovative production businesses which export abroad.

Nonetheless, Mr. Tryfon concludes that: "It is appalling to «cut off the oxygen» of a productive sector; **it is a national financial crime".**