



Mrs Agnes Buzyn  
Minister of Solidarity and Health  
14, avenue Duquesne  
75007 Paris

Brussels, 27 June 2019

Madam Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Coalition on Homeopathy and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP). Our association was founded in 1999 and has 41 company members from 18 EU Member States, all active in the production and distribution of these products. We also have 14 Corresponding Partners (practitioners' and patients' organisations) and 10 Associated Partners (national manufacturers' associations from 9 EU Member States and Switzerland). ECHAMP mission is to enable our members to meet the demand from users and prescribers across the EU for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products.

We are very concerned about the current French debate on the reimbursement of homeopathic products. If it were applied, such a measure would reduce patients' access to these products, which are currently used on a daily basis by 56% of the population in France<sup>1</sup>.

Homeopathic therapy is a medical practice integrated into the healthcare system and recognized by leading organizations worldwide. A European report on alternative and complementary medicines revealed that 29% of the European population used homeopathy for their health care<sup>2</sup> and that the use of this medical practice had increased exponentially over the past 30-40 years. Moreover, the World Health Organization estimates in its "Strategy for Traditional Medicine for 2014-2023"<sup>3</sup> that homeopathy contributes to the fight against the increase in chronic diseases and global health costs. Indeed, homeopathy brings significant advantages to the patients. Homeopathy responds to medical needs that are sometimes not covered, especially in the most vulnerable populations. Due to its safety, it is particularly indicated to children, pregnant women, people with multiple drug therapies and the elderly.

Homeopathy is also an asset to address the current major public health issues. It plays a role to the fight against antibiotic resistance<sup>4</sup> and drug iatrogeny. Moreover, homeopathic therapy contributes to the control of public health expenditure<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Homeopathy is becoming more and more popular. Ipsos Publication 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Committee to the European Parliament and the application of Directives 92/73 and 92/74

<sup>3</sup> WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014-2023

<sup>4</sup> Reducing the need for antibiotics the contribution of complementary and alternative medicine conference on June 6, 2018 in Brussels

<sup>5</sup> Economic impact of homeopathic practice in general medicine in France - 2015



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France is the world leader in this sector which is growing worldwide and has all the assets to keep this leadership. Furthermore, the French market is the largest in the European Union<sup>6</sup> and is therefore under close scrutiny. The delisting of homeopathic products in France would give a very negative signal to other countries as much as it would be contrary to patients and health professionals expectations.

In this context we trust, Madame Minister, that France will take the necessary measures to ensure that access to homeopathic products remains sustainable for all patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reckeweg Lecompte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

David Reckeweg-Lecompte  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernadette Krom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bernadette Krom  
Coordinator of Political Affairs

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<sup>6</sup> Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products in the EU - Sales and Demand