

EFPIA BOARD STATEMENT TO STAKEHOLDERS OF IMI

To whom it may concern,

The recent announcements of restructure plans in pharmaceutical companies resulted in questions from IMI stakeholders about the commitment of EFPIA members to this unique public-private partnership built to support pharmaceutical R&D competitiveness in Europe.

The EFPIA Board at its meeting on 12 March emphasised its member companies' commitment to IMI;

1. IMI is currently the largest public-private partnership in life sciences R&D worldwide with a total budget of 2 billions €.
2. EFPIA considers IMI as a key instrument to implement the new business models which will ensure the sustainability of pharmaceutical industries across Europe. These new models are based on innovation networks involving strong external collaboration with academia and biotechnology companies, which is exactly the *raison d'être* of IMI.
3. EFPIA is pleased by the interest and enthusiasm generated by the first two calls for proposals of IMI which involved more than 2000 applicants from universities, SMEs, patient organizations and regulatory agencies. Fifteen projects are currently ongoing and 9 additional projects will be launched in 2010 for a total budget around 400 millions €. These projects should deliver innovative tools to facilitate and accelerate drug development in major disease areas such as inflammatory disorders, diabetes, cancer, asthma, neurodegenerative diseases.
4. In this context, EFPIA reiterates its global support to IMI and its commitment to the successful completion of the research and development projects conducted within this European public-private partnership.