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GRUPEMENT INTERNATIONAL DE LA REPARTITION PHARMACEUTIQUE  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL FULL-LINE WHOLESALERS

## Press Release

# **Wholesalers a vital role in continuing to supply state of the art medicines - European Commission President Mr. José Manuel Barroso**

Lisbon, Portugal, 4th June 2012 – The opening of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers (GIRP) got underway this morning with a keynote video message address from European Commission President José Manuel Barroso.

Speaking to the near 200 delegates gathered in his native city of Lisbon, President Barroso spoke about how the European Union is in the spotlight “perhaps as never before in its history, at a time when our unity, our solidarity are in some quarters being called into question.”

In response to the fact that the “financial crisis is not over”, he outlined how now is not the time for “wavering”. “Europe must move forward with determination and reforms at European level, as well as national level”, he said. On the part of the European Commission he detailed how “we have an ambitious agenda which we are determined to deliver: Europe’s 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable, inclusive growth, these are three mutually reinforcing priorities that will help the European Union and its Member States deliver high levels of employment and social cohesion.”

“Health”, he said, is a “key component in our societies”. “The health sector accounts for 20% of the employment in the European Union. It employs 15% of people holding tertiary qualifications in the European Union.”

Referring to the theme of the event, President Barosso spoke about how the “European pharmaceutical sector including wholesalers have a vital role to play not only in continuing to supply state of the art medicines to the benefit of European patients, but also as a striving innovative sector for generating growth in our economy.”

“An inspired vision for healthcare in times of change is more than ever necessary to ensure the universality of high quality and sustainable healthcare”. In closing his remarks President Barosso expressed his appreciation towards GIRP for the “regular collaboration and contribution towards creating a solid regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals”.

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