

Kasper Ernest announced as GIRP new Director General

Brussels, 22 May 2024

GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Association, is pleased to announce that Mr Kasper Ernest has been appointed as new Director General of the organisation.

His nomination to the position was unanimously approved by the GIRP Managing Board and Board, taking into consideration Mr Ernest's skills, experience and expertise. Mr Ernest will take up his new role after summer.

Kasper Ernest has been working in various executive positions in Brussels for the last 15 years and has built a strong network of relationships in the European institutions and beyond, to become a well-known figure of the Brussels sphere. Since March 2018, he has held the position of Secretary General of Affordable Medicines Europe where he has acquired a detailed understanding of the healthcare distribution sector and of the dynamics of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

His previous experience in the Confederation of Danish Enterprise also grants him a robust expertise in trade and economic matters. Kasper is an external lecturer at the Copenhagen Business School. He also sat on the board of Eurocommerce from 2015 to 2018 and is active in a number of ventures in the healthcare and economic spheres.

GIRP president, Bernd Grabner said: "The full-service healthcare distribution sector is a cornerstone, asserting its vital position in the healthcare supply chain to ensure safe and efficient availability medicines while also leveraging digitalisation and data to improve individualised healthcare for patients. We are convinced that with his experience and passion, Kasper will bring a new vision to our organisation to best support the critical role carried out by GIRP members, in cooperation with the European institutions and our supply chain partners."

Bernd Grabner added: "I would also like to thank the GIRP secretariat and Board for the efficient and outstanding work in leading the organisation for the past few months while we sought the new leader for our organisation. We are all absolutely delighted to welcome Kasper onboard and look forward to working with him."

Kasper Ernest said: "Every day, full-service healthcare distributors empower healthcare professionals across Europe in their mission to offer patients the best possible help. The mission of GIRP is to ensure our members may operate in an economic, legal and political environment that allow them to do just that."

Kasper Ernest continued, "The better our members function and work – the less visible we are. This has led to political complacency and an expectation that we can continue to deliver for society under increasingly constrained circumstances. This is unfortunately not the case, and therefore if policymakers share the vision that Europe must have a thriving and innovative full-service healthcare distribution sector, we must have the necessary tools and a sustainable economic framework to operate in."

For more information, please contact Mr Bernd Grabner: b.grabner@girp.eu

About GIRP

GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Association, is the umbrella organisation of full-service healthcare distributors in Europe. GIRP represents the national associations of over 500 pharmaceutical wholesalers serving 33 European countries, as well as major international and pan-European healthcare distribution companies. GIRP members employ over 140,000 people and distribute around 15 billion packs of medicines as well as a wide range of healthcare products per year.