

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the options for the future regulation of low risk products, of which homeopathy is one of the modalities/medicines listed. As you may know, homeopathy is extremely popular in Europe. For example, homeopathy is the leading alternative therapy in France – not only among the general public, but amongst the medical community as it has been reported that 70% of French physicians are receptive to homeopathy and consider it effective. In India over 100 million people depend solely on homeopathy (in fact a recent A C Nielsen survey reported that 62% of current homeopathy users in India had never tried conventional medicines and 82% would not switch to conventional treatments).

I am particularly concerned about option 4 (to declare homeopathic products not to be therapeutic goods). This seems to be flying in the face of homeopathy's use and status in many other countries of the world, including Switzerland where homeopathy will have the same status as conventional medicine later this year with reference to health insurance. Further to this, the Swiss Report on Homeopathy stated "There is sufficient evidence for the preclinical effectiveness and the clinical efficacy of homeopathy and for its safety and economy compared with conventional treatment".

I favour option a combination of option 1 and 2. Alternatively I believe option 3 would be valid if it means that homeopathic medicines can continue to be used with low level claims – as at present – with the recognition of its use traditional use worldwide. I do not accept option 4 as a viable option in any way.

Yours sincerely,

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