



Kyiv-Mohyla Statement on Access to Pegylated Interferon for the Treatment of Hepatitis C

September 18, 2009

Kiev, Ukraine

Having engaged in a 5-day training on Access to Medicines, Trade and Intellectual Property in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, sponsored at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kiev, Ukraine, September 11-18, 2009, facilitated by American University Washington College of Law Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, Mohyla Academy and the Open Society Institute,

Alarmed at the high number of people infected with Hepatitis C (HCV), which is estimated to be between 150-200 million people in the world,

Recognizing that there is a treatment crisis in the region for Hepatitis C caused, in part, by the inability of treatment organizations to access affordable pegylated interferon (commonly costing over \$10,000 for a half year course), which poses public health and national security threats to countries of the region,

Recognizing the importance of achieving both new innovation for and access to the best possible HCV treatments,

Understanding that regional governments are entering into agreements with the WTO, EU and other trading partners that tend to increase intellectual property protections on medicines far in excess of those required by the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS),

We call on governments of the region, the World Health Organization, bilateral and multilateral aid organizations, donors and others to:

- Acknowledge that prohibitive prices of the best available combination treatment option (with pegylated interferon) is contributing to a treatment crisis for HCV in the EECA region and that urgent measures are needed to lower prices and increase the accessibility of current and future treatment options,
- Investigate potential suppliers of generic pegylated interferon or alternatives and outline intellectual property, registration and other policy options that can be used to lower prices and increase access to the best available treatments,
- Provide increased technical assistance to governments, experts, civil society, patient groups and treatment activists in the region on the dangers of adopting heightened intellectual property and registration barriers to accessing generic medicines,