



Parlamento europeo

Dr Stella Kyriakides

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety,

European Commission

And

Dr Thierry Breton

Commissioner for Internal Market,

European Commission

And:

Dr Rafael Mariano Grossi

IAEA Director

Subject: *Transport of Radiopharmaceuticals in the European Union*

Brussels, 22th April 2020

Dear Commissioners, Dear Director

during this pandemic period, the outcome of which is unknown, we must continue to ensure that services in the hospitals are provided to patients who require radiopharmaceutical care. Radiopharmaceuticals are drugs that are used for imaging diagnosis and therapy. Radiopharmaceuticals are crucial to provide CT scans for COVID-19 patients (SPECT/CT and PET/CT imaging) as well as for fragile patient populations, such as cancer and cardiac patients.

Due to the radioactive part the shelf life is extremely limited and measured in hours and days. Whereas most regular drugs have shelf lives of months or years and can be produced in mass quantities, radiopharmaceuticals are produced in much smaller quantities and have to be produced for delivery just in time. **This is often the day after production, and they are given to a patient usually on that day.** In case of a imaging procedure, the scan also takes place the same day. This means that in the EU countries in over 90% of cases the time between the patient dose being ordered, produced, shipped and the actual diagnostic or therapeutic test is 24 hours. Furthermore, these short timeframes are extremely important since a radiopharmaceutical that cannot be used on the day of delivery and preparation in the hospital must be discarded.

These days, the number of controls at the borders have seriously increased (potentially causing delays) **and the administrative demands are sometimes hard to follow and fulfil. The situation is even worse when it comes to air freight.** The number of flights available has decreased in a very drastic way, meaning that radioisotopes have to be transported to alternative European airports of departure increasing the risk of activity loss and the distance to be covered by road. In addition, we are now facing a situation where radioisotopes processors facilities across the world have to adapt their production timing depending on the schedule of the few remaining flights.

We really hope you can take in consideration these issues and take a clear stance against the closure of the borders and the difficulties of the deliveries of vital material between Member States, in order to facilitate the procedures of the entire vital production/distribution chain.

Yours Sincerely,

MEP Aldo PATRICIELLO
MEP Andreas SCHWAB
MEP Antonio TAJANI
MEP Salvatore DE MEO
MEP Giuseppe MILAZZO
MEP Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO
MEP Nicola PROCACCINI
MEP Brando BENIFEI
MEP Marian MARINESCU
MEP Riho TERRAS
MEP Radan KANEV
MEP Alviina ALAMETSÄ
MEP Antoni COMÍN
MEP Athanasios KOSTANTINOU
MEP Attila ARA-KOVÁCSMEP
MEP Dino GIARRUSSO
MEP Raffaele STANCANELLI
MEP Carlo FIDANZA
MEP Raffaele FITTO
MEP Romana TOMC
MEP Clotilde ARMAND
MEP Karlo RESSLER
MEP Massimiliano SALINI
MEP Svenja HAHN