

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## **Joint Industry Letter – Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court**

The undersigned companies and associations in the pharmaceutical sector hereby make the following joint statement regarding the Unitary Patent package, that is the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court.

We welcome the confirmation by the UK Government at the EU Competitiveness Council meeting November 28, 2016, that the UK will proceed with its preparations to ratify the Unified Patent Court (UPC) agreement. This means that the way is paved for the Unitary Patent package to move forward and, after completion of the ratifications by UK and Germany, to enter into operation as planned in 2017.

The pharmaceutical industry is heavily dependent on an effective patent system protecting its innovations for a certain period of time. The introduction of the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court will significantly simplify the patent system in Europe and reduce the costs for obtaining, maintaining and enforcing patents. We support and welcome this reform.

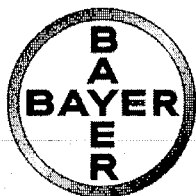
We also welcome the view of many delegations at the Competitiveness Council meeting, that the operationalization of the Unitary Patent package with the broadest possible geographical coverage should be achieved as soon as possible, by the prerequisite ratifications of the UPC agreement.

As noted in user communications on the Unitary Patent Package for the September 29, 2016 Competitiveness Council meeting, the attractiveness of the system would increase with a long-term participation of the United Kingdom.

Therefore, solutions for such inclusiveness should also be considered.

Very truly yours,

The undersigned pharmaceutical companies and associations,



Bayer AG, Germany

**abbvie**

AbbVie Deutschland GmbH & Co.  
KG / AbbVie USA



**Boehringer  
Ingelheim**

Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH,  
Germany

**Merck**

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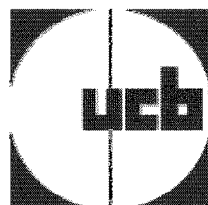
Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark



Sanofi S.A., France



Takeda Pharmaceuticals  
International AG, Switzerland



Union Chimique Belge, UCB S.A.,  
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