

Address of the President of the National Council at the 7th Value of Innovation Strategic Conference "We won't rest for a better tomorrow"

National Council, 9 October 2018 at 13:00

#WeWontRest

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Organizer

FORUM OF INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, EIG

Institutional co-organizer

JAZMP

Dear participants of today's panel discussion,

- esteemed guests - Mr. Samo Fakin, Minister of Health,
- dear organizers from the Forum of international research and development pharmaceutical companies - Ms. Katarina Verhnjak, President of the Board,
- Dr. Stanislav Primožič, acting Director of the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices,
- officers and clerks,
- the interested public,
- representatives of the media,

Please allow me to welcome you to the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, the second house of our Parliament.

The National Council is one of the steps in the decision making process in the development of policies and can thus contribute to better legislation in different areas, including healthcare.

As the second house of the Parliament the National Council provides opinions on legislative proposals, so it is very important that councillors remain well informed about the purpose and goals of legislative proposals.

In practice the National Council has developed into an institution that cooperates closely with civil society and gathers incentives for legislative solutions.

This is achieved through different forms of work, including panel discussions such as this one.

Discussions enable civil society to directly present its interests in the Parliament and influence the shaping of policies and legislation. Through discussions we determine problem areas, seek and propose solutions to the legislator and inform the public through the media. Our aim is to bring together the opinions of as wide a circle of society as possible - including professional and lay publics and political decision makers.

We often say that health is our greatest wealth. Over the last decades we have witnessed rapid development in the field of medicine and pharmacy where innovations are taking centre stage. Developments have led to improved patient care, extended life expectancy, higher quality of life and greater productivity of society.

Decades of investment in innovative health technologies have led us to where we can successfully treat and prevent a number of diseases better than ever before. Some epidemics that decimated entire nations in the past now remain a distant memory.

Population aging has created new dilemmas and new problems through growing numbers of diseases, particularly non-infectious chronic ones, that affect older people.

Publicly accessible research has shown that the Slovenian healthcare system will be experiencing massive strain over the coming 20 years due to an aging population that requires more healthcare services.

New technologies and new medicines now allow for an almost inconceivable possibilities of treatment of diseases and conditions. Innovative solutions can contribute to increasing the quality of prevention and effectiveness of treatments and with that to greater financial sustainability of healthcare systems.

And that very sustainability is currently one of the greatest problems facing not only Slovenia, but all EU member countries, so we must consider greater investments into innovations in all chronic diseases that arise due to population aging.

Dear participants,

modern technologies and developments in medicine and pharmacy bring greater quality of life, reduced risks of disease and better odds for survival and full recovery.

Investments in development and innovations bring lower manufacturing costs and greater accessibility of medicines and medical devices and services to people around the world. They are one of the most humane and well grounded expenditures of human society.

At its current level of development, humanity should not deliberate on "To be or not to be?", but rather on "How to be better and longer in this world?".

I conclude with this thought and hope you will be able to offer a part of the answers to the last question. I wish all of you a successful and fruitful discussion.

Thank you for your attention.