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**An open letter of EECA CAB to ViiV Healthcare**

**based on the results of the meeting on the 22nd of October 2014**

Eastern European and Central Asian Community Advisory Board (EECA CAB) would like to thank ViiV (hereinafter referred to as the Company) for the participation in the meeting held October 22, 2014, which was focused on clinical trials of HIV drugs, registration of these drugs in the countries of the region, prices, patent status, as well as availability in national treatment programmes.

Based on the results of the meeting, EECA CAB finds it important to express its position regarding the following questions:

1. EECA CAB would like to thank the Company for its readiness to cooperate in the field of of pricing policy and product supply, and urges the Company to continue this cooperation. EECA CAB is ready to inform the Company about cases of exorbitantly high prices for the Company’s drugs charged by distributors or local offices.
2. EECA CAB believes that in order to mitigate the risk of treatment interruptions, which could happen after the withdrawal of the donor programmes, the Company should take steps to register its drugs in the countries of the region where they have not been registered yet, especially in those countries where the drugs are supplied through donor programmes only. We ask the Company to take into account the high burden of the epidemic when registering prices, and to ensure access to the Company’s drugs at the prices not exceeding the procurement prices within the Global Fund programmes.
3. We urge the Company to ensure prompt registration of the drugs “Tivicay” (dolutegravir) and “Triumeq” (abacavir/ lamivudin/ dolutegravir). We also urge the Company set the price at the level, which would enable to meet the clinical need for these drugs, taking into account the epidemic, and the level of income of each country. The prices for these drugs set in other countries of the world are unacceptably high for the EECA region. If necessary, EECA CAB is ready to provide data on the epidemiological situation and on the treatment need.
4. EECA CAB urges the company to file a dossier for including dolutegravir into the Essential Medicines List in Russia.
5. Taking into account the hard epidemiological situation, EECA CAB urges the Company to reduce the price for abacavir and abacavir/lamivudine in Russia and Ukraine by re-registering the prices and by offering lower prices to distributors.
6. EECA CAB urges the Company to extend the terms of the licensing agreements with generic companies and the Medicine Patent Pool towards all low- and middle-income EECA countries, and to consider the opportunity of including high-income countries with a high disease burden. We would like to reiterate the importance of including Ukraine into the license agreement on the adult form of abacavir.
7. EECA CAB urges the Company not to block access to generic drugs, for which the patent term is expiring in 2-3 years. Specifically, we ask the Company not to take legal action again generic companies bringing these drugs to the market.
8. EECA CAB urges the Company to provide a possibility for its representatives to give feedback on the clinical trials conducted in the region.

