Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies; and improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products

Statement of Austria

- Austria welcomes the report by the DG informing about the initiatives taken on access to effective treatments and improving transparency of markets for health products.

- Thanks to a strong regulatory capacity with regard to marketing authorisation and pharmacovigilance, safety concerns are not such a major issue in Austria. Nevertheless, there are bottlenecks concerning transparency, resulting from the fragmentation in the Austrian health care system.

- However, also in this regard we have made progress and launched initiatives to address the issues of shortages. We have strengthened reporting requirements for prescription-only medicines that are short in supply and we have constantly updated the publicly accessible shortages registers.
• We take special interest in supporting cross-country collaboration as a member of the **BENELUXA initiative** and as a host of the **Secretariat of the Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) network**.

• With regard to strategic guidance and next steps, we would like to stress the following **aspects of importance to Austria**:
  - to consider in addition to the net prices and transparency of R&D costs - further elements such as volume data - as it is also stated in the WHA resolution 72.8;
  - to consider the fragmentation of health systems as a possible barrier and
  - to consider the value of cross-country collaboration for progress in access to medicines and for improvement on transparency.

• **Thank you!**