



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2006/2575(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on counterfeiting of medicinal products		
Subject 4.20.04 Pharmaceutical products and industry 7.30.30.10 Action against counterfeiting		

Key players		
European Parliament		
European Commission		
	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	VERHEUGEN Günter

Key events			
05/09/2006	Debate in Parliament		
07/09/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/09/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0351/2006	Summary
07/09/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2575(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B6-0310/2006	03/07/2006	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0467/2006	05/09/2006	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0476/2006	05/09/2006	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0482/2006	05/09/2006	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0483/2006	05/09/2006	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0485/2006	05/09/2006	EP	

Motion for a resolution		B6-0505/2006	05/09/2006	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B6-0467/2006	05/09/2006		
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0351/2006	07/09/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)4772	19/10/2006	EC	

Resolution on counterfeiting of medicinal products

The European Parliament adopted a joint resolution on counterfeiting of medicinal products, pointing out that such products could have extremely serious consequences and may well endanger the health and life of millions of people. Counterfeit medicines were primarily circulating in developing countries and were used to treat fatal conditions such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. 25% of all medicines used in developing countries were apparently counterfeit, and in some cases, much higher. Parliament felt that the European Union should equip itself as a matter of urgency with the means to combat effectively illicit practices in the area of piracy and the counterfeiting of medicines. According to the WHO, 200 000 of the one million deaths a year from malaria were attributable to medicines wrongly administered or the administration of counterfeit medicines. The counterfeiting of medicines was rife in all continents but mainly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Russia.

Parliament regretted that the EU had become involved only at a late stage in the international fight against counterfeiting, when more open borders and the Internet were likely to exacerbate the problem of piracy. It called on the Commission to go beyond its current strategy on enforcing intellectual property rights in third countries. The EU must :

- take steps to strengthen the regulatory and quality-control capacity for medicinal products and medical equipment put on the market in countries with inadequate resources and improve access to affordable medicines;
- play a key role in promoting an international convention to create a specific criminal offence of counterfeit or the receiving and distribution of counterfeit medicines in the legislation of every country.

Parliament pointed out that this trafficking in fake medicines was also a consequence of the lack of political awareness and commitment, weak regulatory systems, inadequate enforcement capacity and, especially in developing countries, the lack of public access to genuine medicines supervised by the public authorities. There must be preventive measures in action programmes, more specifically, the establishment of structures, cooperation, awareness campaigns, preferably carried out by the public authorities, and finally the political will to carry through such measures successfully.