



## INTERVIEW WITH:

Petru Bagriy - Executive Director - Association of Manufacturers of Medication of Ukraine (AFVU)



**AFVU is the only association representing Ukrainian pharmaceutical companies and today it counts on a membership of manufacturers responsible for 90% of national production. What was the aim of creating such an association?**

In 2005 we created this association with the main goal of adopting European standards for Ukrainian manufacturers of pharmaceutical products. The idea was to standardize the processes of the local industry so that our medicines would be acceptable to commercialize in all of Ukraine and eventually in other markets as well. As of 2010 GMP standards became obligatory for all Ukrainian producers to obtain a license for a product and this was due to the efforts our association that is known as the Association of Manufacturers of Medication of Ukraine. Today our main goal is to prepare the market and healthcare sector for the introduction of a reimbursement system and health insurance operators.

At the moment we only represent six of the largest companies in Ukraine, but we are in the process of expanding our membership because ultimately we would like to have all national manufacturers motivated by the same vision of our healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. There is no doubt that the Ukrainian pharmaceutical sector has great potential, and it has already been growing at 20% on a yearly basis. Given that the market is only valued at US\$3 billion and the country's population is 46million, there is great room for improving and growing the importance of the sector. What is needed now is to transform the healthcare sector in order to make these opportunities a reality.

**Authorities have been debating about the introduction of a reimbursement system for more than a decade now. Do you believe that**

**this will soon become a reality?**

Yes, I am confident that soon the government will introduce a reimbursement system and this is one of our principal objectives. We have been working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken to create an environment in which a reimbursement system could become a reality. This means updating regulations and standards of medicine as well as understanding where the government needs to allocate more funds in order to improve the provision of healthcare. For all of this to become a reality there is a need to better understand the statistics of diseases in Ukraine to therefore understand the amount of medication that will be needed. Such data is helpful not only for the government's planning purposes and the patients, but also for us manufacturers to understand which products we need to focus on and how to improve our cost structure.

**It sounds like you have very ambitious goals for the future. What do you consider have been the main milestones and achievements of AFVU so far?**

Undoubtedly the greatest achievement for us was the estab-

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