

Overcoming the Roadblocks - the Task ahead for EU HTA

On February 1st, the Permanent Representation of the Free State of Bavaria in Brussels hosted a meeting on 'Improving patient access to oncology medicines and the role of the EU HTA Regulation'. On the same day Belgian farmers conducted a major strike and blocked roads all throughout Brussels with their huge tractors. Those physical roadblocks could almost be perceived as a metaphor for the current status of the EU HTA regulation. Nevertheless, with some delay all presenters and guests successfully arrived at the venue and a very successful and encouraging meeting took place, including the perspectives of key stakeholders: @CPE, @ESMO, @Roche, @DG Santé, @EAA, @efpia and the closing presentation by MEP @Tomislav Sokol.

Critical EU HTA Roadblocks that were discussed include e.g., i) the lack of sufficient capacities within the Coordination Group, the Member States and DG Santé; ii) the lack of timely and sufficient Joint Scientific Consultation opportunities - which will pose a particular challenge to the initial assessments in early 2025, and iii) a lack of clarity and transparency of processes, methods, templates, and of stakeholder involvement.

During the meeting and the multiple follow up discussions a variety of proposals to address some of these roadblocks were brought up, including, e.g., i) both, @ESMO and @EAA underlined their academic focus on educating and attracting young talent for HTA; ii) sufficient funding by the member states and the commission is urgently required to build up capacities; iii) introducing a fee for Joint Scientific Consultations could further support the build-up of capacities.

Addressing and overcoming the multiple roadblocks for EU HTA and thus strengthening a core and evolving element of the European Health Union was the joint intention of all meeting participants. We would like to thank the organisers and the Representation of Bavaria for hosting the meeting and keeping this discussion alive.

