



Erasmus University Rotterdam and the University de Cantabria present:

EXPERT MEETING: ACCESS TO (EXPENSIVE) MEDICINES IN EUROPE

Venue: Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date: 20 February 2026

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OCCASION

Access to expensive medicines is a significant challenge that can be addressed through strategies like government reimbursement systems, price negotiations between governments and manufacturers, and promoting biosimilars. Other key approaches include improving pharmaceutical supply systems, strengthening regulatory bodies, challenging excessive price-setting by the judiciary, and encouraging the rational use of medicines by healthcare providers.

During this one-day meeting, international experts will address access to high-cost medicines from different perspectives (law, medicine, pharmacology, economics, and ethics) and discuss the impact of the European pharmaceutical strategy on access to expensive medicines.

(preliminary) PROGRAMME

11.00 am Welcome Chair expert meeting

SESSION I

- 'Access to (expensive) medicines as a human right', *Dr. Katrina Perehudoff* (University of Amsterdam, NL)
- The EU Pharmaceutical Strategy, *Dr. Tomislav Sokos* (EU Parliament)

DISCUSSION

SESSION II

- Fair pricing of essential medicines, *Prof. Carin Uyl-de Groot* (Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL)
- Ethical pricing of medicines, *Dr J. Smids* (Erasmus Medical Centre, NL)

DISCUSSION

LUNCH BREAK

SESSION III COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

- Challenging excessive pricing under (European) competition law, *Dr. André den Exter* (Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL)
- *Rethinking Pharmaceutical Innovation: Democratizing Access through Biosimilars*, Ghada Zakout MD, LLM (Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL)
- Compounded medicines, title tbc *Dr. Marleen Kemper*, A15 Pharmacy
- High-Cost Medicines and State Duties to Protect Life and Health: Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the Swiss Federal Court, *Prof.dr. Claudia Seitz* (University of Liechtenstein (UFL) (online)

SESSION IV Workshop tbc

Conclusions