



Overtoom 60/III
1054 HK Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 412 4523
Fax: +31 20 685 5002
Email: info@haiweb.org
www.haiweb.org

March 2009

HAI Statement

WTO response on seizures of generic medicines in transit

HAI Global and HAI Europe welcome the response from Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to the joint letter from concerned NGOs regarding the application of IP protection to goods in transit through Europe.

Clearly, Pascal Lamy is taking seriously the threat to Access to Medicines of unmitigated and inappropriate use of IP rights to seize medicines in transit. He states that creating barriers to legitimate trade in generic medicines should be avoided. Indeed, Lamy directs readers to the 2001 Doha Declaration on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which confirms the determination of members to promote access to medicines for all.

We are also encouraged by the WTO's confirmation that they are willing to assist States in dispute, but we would also recommend that more direction is given to States and agencies caught in the middle of disputes regarding goods in transit. The HAI global network will continue to work with the Dutch authorities, and all interested parties, on the specifics of generic medicine seizures that hinder access to essential medicines in developing countries.

Dr Tim Reed, Director, HAI Global

Teresa Alves, Coordinator, HAI Europe