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Hugo-Maria SCHALLY
DG Environment
Head of Unit E2: Global Sustainability,
Trade and Multilateral Agreements
By email to: ENV-E2-NAGOYA-
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Research-Based
Pharmaceutical Companies

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Director General
Birgit Fischer

**Work on model contractual clauses, best practices etc. in view
of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**

Dear Mr. Schally,

The Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies in Germany (vfa), a member of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), fully supports the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Nagoya Protocol, and is willing to support initiatives which may further facilitate responsible and sustainable use of genetic resources covered by the Protocol.

The vfa therefore welcomes your request to share information on our industry's practice as we believe that codes of conduct and best practices are a particularly efficient instrument to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the EU. Such tools foster both awareness and compliance and are clearly of great value, especially for small and mid-sized companies.

Wishing to participate in the development of a workable regime on ABS, our industry, under IFPMA impetus and with support of EFPIA and the vfa, has developed in 2011 the enclosed guidelines, thereby further demonstrating both its consistent engagement with the ABS policy and its acceptance of the ABS framework as a standard practice in its research & development process. The research-based pharmaceutical companies in Germany fully endorse these guidelines.

The vfa believes that an implementation framework relying on best practices will significantly contribute to achieving a practical access and benefit sharing environment, conducive to value creation and equitable sharing of rewards. The ultimate goal is for the framework to be effective and workable in practice, by both providers and users.

Date

30 July 2013

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The vfa is prepared to work with your unit in order to ensure the Protocol's fair and balanced implementation in Germany and the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Birgit Fischer
Director General



Harald Zimmer
International Affairs

Attachement:

Guidelines for IFPMA Members on Access to Genetic Resources and
Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization