

Innspill fra AmCham Norway: Notat til høring vedr. Representantforslag 8:40 S (2021-2022) om at Stortinget må få evalueringen av Beslutningsforum for nye metoder til behandling

AmCham is a not-for-profit, member-led organization working to strengthen bilateral trade and business relations between Norway and the US. On behalf of our transatlantic member companies, we work to increase the attractiveness of Norway for international investment, employment, and innovation.

AmCham fully supports KrF Document 8:40s (2021-2022) for the return of the Evaluation of the Decision Forum for New Methods (Evaluation) to Parliament. There is a clear connection between national access policy and current political goals of facilitating innovation and growth, attracting foreign investment, building up national pharmaceutical stocks and production, and increasing the number of clinical trials taking place in Norway. As a national procurement and access system, the Decision Forum for New Methods (New Methods) is a critical component of this ecosystem.

On behalf of our members, which include the largest multinational healthcare companies in Norway, it is crucial that the key findings of the Evaluation receive proper follow up. Weight must be placed on the inclusion of all actors in following-up on the Evaluation to answer one of its most important findings – a lack of trust and transparency. We encourage an open and inclusive process to achieve a system suited to the needs of all, thus reaching the ambitious goals for an innovative health industry requested and approved by Parliament. To best provide for this, the Evaluation should be taken into consideration by Parliament's Health and Care Committee.

Evaluation of the Decision Forum for New Methods

AmCham Norway is pleased that the Evaluation has been completed and made publicly available. Throughout the evaluation process, the importance of improvements to - and cooperation within - New Methods has been highlighted by significant interest and contributions from a broad range of international stakeholders. Having had the opportunity to review Evaluation findings, stakeholders are now eager to jointly address the key challenges addressed therein.

The findings in the Evaluation provide a solid description of some of the challenges within New Methods:

- Goal Congestion – divergent goals and directives exist in the current system.
- Low or varying degrees of trust in the system among stakeholders.
- Norwegian patients obtain late access to innovative pharmaceuticals and treatments.
- The current system is not equipped to accommodate future health technologies and innovations.

We believe that the best outcome would be achieved by the Regional Health Trusts working closely with critical external stakeholders for further system development and report follow up, rather than solely in accordance with the mandate in the assignment letter (oppdragsbrev). The establishment of greater trust, identified as a key issue in the Proba report, would particularly benefit from such a collaborative approach.

It is clear from the report's comparative country analysis that Norway is unique in its system formulation. In no other compared countries are decision-making actors so tied to operational and financial considerations. For this reason, and to promote Norwegian competitiveness internationally,

it is imperative that evaluation follow-up be provided Parliament oversight and the involvement of external experts and industry stakeholders.

Health and Care Committee

The current Decision Forum for New Methods has been tasked with upholding politically established goals and priorities¹. The critical role that these priorities hold within New Methods requires that Parliament and the Health and Care Committee are actively involved in its implementation and follow-up. To clarify the purpose and scope of New Methods, its context within international trading relationships, and to answer the shortcomings highlighted within the report, there is need for political guidance.

The Evaluation finds that the three prioritization criteria included in the mandate of New Methods and the four priorities outlined in the Whitepaper on Pharmaceuticals are not being weighed equally, as originally intended². This indicates a systemic de-prioritization of Parliament's policy objectives by New Methods, and thereby an unpredictable business environment. To ensure that the system is structured to treat these goals equally and is suited to provide quality, prompt access to innovations and technologies, we again view it as crucial that Parliament be a part of its development.

Summary

To meet the future demands that will be placed on the Norwegian healthcare system, it is important that New Methods be properly developed and easily understood by all parties. To ensure New Methods works in concert across public and private interests, and in answer to the Evaluation, there must be broader involvement in its follow-up and response.

AmCham Norway encourages a holistic and thorough follow-up of the Evaluation of the Decision Forum for New Methods. Due to the political nature of the goals and priorities within New Methods, Parliament should be entrusted with the task of ensuring its proper implementation and evolution.

¹ [Nye Metoder- Bakgrunn](#)

² [Legemiddelmeldingen — Riktig bruk – bedre helse](#) (*White Paper on Pharmaceuticals*)