



## SPONSORING OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS NOT SUBJECT TO VISA REQUIREMENTS: GUIDELINES (D.D. 01.01.2023)

The following guidelines have been designed to guide Healthcare Sector professionals and companies to apply and interpret the dispositions of the Law on medicinal products and of the Mdeon Code of Ethics in relation to the sponsoring of scientific events which do not require a preliminary visa.

### PRINCIPLE?

Companies from the pharmaceutical or medical devices sector may sponsor scientific events which take place over only one day and which do not therefore require a visa.

Rules applicable are identical to those for events requiring a visa (article 10, §2, 2° of the law of 25 March 1964 concerning medicines\*).

### TYPES OF SPONSORING?

The principles of these guidelines apply equally to the sponsoring of *participants* and to the sponsoring of *organisers* of scientific events\*\*.

### QUESTIONS?

Healthcare professionals or companies who so wish can ask the Mdeon Visa Office *written advice* about the question if a scientific event not subject to visa requirements is in conformity with the Mdeon Code of Ethics.

### WHICH PROGRAMME?

The event is of an *exclusively scientific* nature – as is the programme: scientific symposium, investigators meeting, advisory board meeting, working party operating within the framework of a scientific consultancy contract, etc.

Events which do not have an exclusively scientific programme may *not be sponsored*. i.e.: asbl Board Meetings, Emeritus celebrations with no scientific programme, Open Days with no scientific programme, business lunches, meetings of a purely promotional nature, etc.

### LEVEL OF HOSPITALITY?

- ❖ *Reasonable and subsidiary*: in total, a maximum of 23 EUR hospitality per person per full hour of scientific event is allowed, with a maximum of 45 EUR per lunch and 90 EUR per dinner (all included: meals, all drinks, coffee breaks, VAT, room rental ...). All inclusive, a maximum of 135 EUR hospitality for a day of at least six hours of scientific manifestation is allowed.
- ❖ *Limited to the official duration of the event*: meals taken immediately before or after the scientific activities

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES?

Healthcare professionals may *organise* social activities to take place after a *complete* day's proceedings which were of a scientific nature, with the proviso that such activities do not last any longer than one hour, that such activities are financed by the participants themselves and that the nature of the activities is compatible with the scientific nature of the daytime events.

Companies do not organise social activities – even if such activities were to be financed by the Healthcare professionals themselves.

Social activities must *never be sponsored*. Eg.: sports days for hospital staff, festivities linked to Saint-Nicolas feast day, golf afternoons, wine-tasting sessions, town visits or museum visits, etc.

### ACCOMPANYING PEOPLE?

Companies do not invite persons to accompany participants. In any case, companies do not support the costs of eventual accompanying persons.

### VENUE?

The chosen venue suites to the scientific nature of the event and does not lead to any confusion in this area.

\* It must not be forgotten that §1 of this article forbids in general the offering of all premiums and benefits by companies to Healthcare professionals as well as requests of the same by the said professionals.

\*\* The Guidelines are however not applicable to the sponsoring of foreign organisers, as defined in article 16.2 of the Code of Ethics.