CONFEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ALZHEIMER

PRESS RELEASE (translated from the Spanish version, here)

The Spanish Government and the autonomous communities are abandoning people with Alzheimer's disease

- ***The CIPM once again refuses to fund the only authorised treatments capable of slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease, despite the backing of the European Medicines Agency and the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices.***
- ***CEAFA and the leading scientific societies involved in Alzheimer's disease care condemn the fact that Spain is turning its back on biomedical innovation, preventing neurologists and specialists from offering their patients a major therapeutic advance against the disease.***

Pamplona, 16 July 2026. The Spanish Confederation of Alzheimer's and Other Dementias (CEAFA) condemns as unjustifiable the decision by the Interministerial Commission on the Pricing of Medicines (CIPM) to refuse, once again, to fund the first and only treatments capable of slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease. **A decision that abandons thousands of people living with Alzheimer's disease.**

With it, the Ministry of Health and the autonomous communities are once again denying access to a therapeutic innovation that has already been endorsed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS), which is available in more than fifty countries, including private healthcare in Spain, and that represents the greatest scientific advance against Alzheimer's. **Spain once again places itself outside biomedical innovation, denying thousands of people the only current therapeutic option capable of delaying the progression of the disease. It is a decision that does not question the scientific evidence, but rather prevents Spanish specialists from offering it to patients who meet the clinical criteria.**

The resolution condemns sons, daughters, spouses and carers to watch as the disease continues to steal memories, autonomy and time, in the knowledge that a treatment exists which Spain has decided not to make available to them. It is a sentence that medically excludes an entire generation of patients, with immediate and irreversible effect. With every week that passes, new patients permanently cease to meet the clinical criteria for treatment – an opportunity that they will never regain as their disease progresses. This is not an "administrative delay". Rather, it is a decision of enormous cruelty, because the Administration is not simply postponing a budgetary allocation: it is depriving thousands of people of the only *real* therapeutic option that can slow disease progression.

The decision also represents a step backwards from the consensus built over more than a year between patients and professionals. The clearest proof of this is the **Alzheimer's Decalogue: Ten Commitments for MEMORY**, drawn up jointly by CEAFA and the Spanish Society of Psychogeriatrics (SEPG), the Spanish Society of General and Family Physicians (SEMG), the Spanish Society of Neurology (SEN), the Spanish Society of Psychiatry and Mental Health (SEPSM), the Spanish Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology (SEGG), the Spanish Society of Primary Care Physicians (SEMERGEN), the CIEN Foundation and the Queen Sofía Foundation, whose seventh commitment expressly calls for the incorporation and funding of the new treatments, ensuring that access does not depend on place of residence or referral hospital.

Since then, CEAFA and these societies have held meetings with ministries, parliamentary groups, autonomous communities and health authorities, and have put forward numerous proposals to ensure that Spain is prepared to incorporate these therapies with criteria of equity, planning and scientific rigour. This work has even received the express backing of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, which has recognised the strategic importance of facilitating access to these innovative treatments. The effort made by patients and clinicians to prepare the national health system now runs up against a political decision that destroys the consensus built over months.

Nor does it hold up from an economic point of view. Caring for a person with advanced Alzheimer's dementia carries an average cost of close to EUR30,000 a year for Spanish families, who bear around 80% of the economic impact amid the chronic collapse of the long-term care system. **Failing to fund early treatment does not save resources; it simply shifts the economic burden to more advanced stages of the disease, when dependency, health and social costs are far higher.**

The scientific societies believe that this decision sends a particularly grave message to society as a whole. For years, researchers, scientists and healthcare professionals have devoted efforts and resources to finding treatments for Alzheimer's disease. They have succeeded. Today, science has delivered. Yet when that advance knocks at the door of the national health system, the answer is once again no. **There is no point in calling for more research if its results are then prevented from reaching those who need them most.**

“The ones failing now are the politicians. Governments cannot keep hiding behind procedures. What is being decided today is not simply “administrative”. It determines which patients will receive a treatment in time, and which patients will not be able to do so. For years we were told there were no treatments for Alzheimer’s disease. Today there are. For years we were asked to wait for innovation to arrive. Today it has arrived. And even so, the authorities are once again closing the door on the greatest therapeutic advance against Alzheimer's disease in decades. After more than a year of meetings with ministries, autonomous communities and public officials, today we find that many of those pledges of support were not worth the paper they were written on. What has been decided today is to condemn a generation of patients to lose the chance to access the only treatment capable of modifying the course of their disease. This constitutes a historic betrayal of people with Alzheimer's disease, in absolute disregard of their dignity”, says Mariló Almagro, president of CEAFA.

CEAFA announces that it will step up all the institutional, political and social action needed until this decision is reversed. Because Alzheimer's does not wait. Every day without access to these treatments is a day lost for those who will never be able to recover the time the disease takes from them. And that responsibility no longer lies with science. It is exclusively political.

About CEAFA

CEAFA is an organisation that brings together more than 300 associations of family members and represents the interests and needs of the more than 4.8 million people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Spain, including family carers. Alzheimer's accounts for more than 60% of dependency in our country and represents an annual cost of EUR35 billion, a bill that falls mostly on families due to the lack of structural support.

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