

# Compulsory License for Medicaments in Colombia Once Again Rejected

By OlarteMoure & Asociados

A compulsory license (CL) against the patent covering the beta polymorph of imatinib mesylate (GLIVEC) was requested by NGOs. For the second time in Colombia, the Ministry of Health (MoH) rejected the CL. Instead, the MoH declared the public interest of Imatinib for price reduction purposes, requesting the National Pharmaceutical Price Commission (NPPC) to issue a new methodology for the price reduction of Glivec, which is currently still under consideration.

OlarteMoure handled the only prior DPI request in Colombia against Abbott's KALETRA HIV product, in which the MoH also rejected the CL.

This is a very important matter for the entire patent system in Colombia, since CLs are a punitive remedy of last resort that should only be imposed after considering and rejecting less onerous alternatives. Impact for this case extends to the regional and global level.

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