



INTERNATIONAL GENERIC AND  
BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES ASSOCIATION

## **COVID-19 / Urgent call to governments**

### **Air freight must reopen for critical medicines and supplies for their manufacture**

For immediate release

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The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA), which represents global manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, today requested urgent action by governments and pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders to reopen air freight routes and ensure patients around the globe can continue to have access to the medicines they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"Air freight is a crucial part of the pharmaceutical supply chain. Pharmaceutical manufacturers rely on capacity in passenger flights to ship medicines and ingredients rapidly and securely," said Hanan Sboul, IGBA Chair. "With the pandemic nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been a dramatic reduction in commercial air passenger flights that normally carry these pharmaceutical goods."*

*"The IGBA calls for urgent discussion and coordination between governments, air carriers, logistics operators such as freight forwarders and the pharmaceutical industry to ensure that generic and biosimilar medicines manufacturers can continue to produce and ship medicines to where they are needed. A prompt, integrated international approach is required to avoid shortages in the supply of medicines during these critical times," urged Sboul.*

See also:

- [COVID-19: Critical to keep the supply chain of essential medicines manufacturing operating at full capacity](#)
- [Use of generic medicines around the world](#)

## **About IGBA**

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. The IGBA is at the forefront of preserving sustainable competition within our industry, by stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector; thereby, ensuring millions of patients around the world have access to high quality, pro-competitive medicines. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations, see the IGBA website at: [www.igbamedicines.org](http://www.igbamedicines.org).