



## KEY MESSAGES



**EU2022.CZ**

Czech Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union

# Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to medicines through a secure and resilient supply

10 November 2022 - from 10:00 to 13:00

At the premises of the Permanent Representation  
of the Czech Republic to the European Union,  
Rue Caroly 15, 1050 Ixelles



# Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to medicines through a secure and resilient supply

10 NOVEMBER 2022



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P R O G R A M M E

## Intro

Medicines for Europe, the European off-patent medicines association, and CAFF, the Czech generic and biosimilar medicines association, have organised under the auspices of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union a seminar on 10 November 2022 entitled “Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to medicines through a secure and resilient supply”.

The event has been organised in line with the main objectives stated in the European Commission pharmaceutical and updated industrial strategies for Europe, which have been published setting up clear goals for the European Union that delivers on access, availability and affordability while achieving a great open strategic autonomy, also taking into account the Covid-19 pandemic lesson learned.

## Messages

### Session 1: Sustainable and equitable access to medicines in Central and Eastern Europe

Equitable access to medicines and the sustainability of healthcare systems remain a challenge<sup>1</sup> for many European governments. In this context, off-patent medicines play an essential role in promoting pharmaceutical innovation and, through competition contribute massively to the affordability, sustainability, and accessibility of healthcare systems. The greater use of generic and biosimilar medicines in the CEE region could be a catalyst to dramatically improve access to medicines and to improve health outcomes, as found in the recent Medicines for Europe report “Removing access barriers in Central and Eastern Europe: How can we ensure equitable access to medicines for all European patients?”

- **Equitable Access** in all European countries should be key in the upcoming revision of the pharmaceutical strategy. Access to essential, off-patent medicines across Europe and especially ? in Central Eastern Europe is uneven, not only among countries, but even within regions.
- **Synergies and best practices:** More action, for example by supporting open dialogue between stakeholders, is needed to **find synergies** and to **share best practices** between countries to achieve equitable access.
- **Uptake policies:** Comprehensive and holistic policies which support the uptake of generic and biosimilar medicines are required to broaden patient access to medicines.
- **Removal of barriers to generic and biosimilar market entry:** Removal of access restrictions and anti-competitive marketing strategies after expiry of the patent is essential to leverage off-patent treatments.

<sup>1</sup> Medicines for Europe report “[Removing in Central and Eastern Europe access barriers: How can we ensure equitable access to medicines for all European patients?](#)”



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### Session 2: Increasing Manufacturing Resilience for security of supply and equitable access

Cost-containment and the Industrial consolidation of the sector run counter to the EU's goal to increase manufacturing resilience and diversity and reduce reliance on third countries. To reverse industrial consolidation and promote open strategic autonomy in medicines manufacturing, the European Union can stimulate progress on a policy environment that solidifies security of supply for equitable access to medicines.

- **Smart procurement reforms:** Issue EU guidelines on medicines procurement to prevent medicines shortages and ensure security of supply.
- **Support manufacturing incentives:** To achieve an open strategic autonomy, the off-patent medicines industry should be granted full access to European funds and health IPCEI for manufacturing investments
- **Regulatory optimisation:** Optimise the regulatory system to improve access to medicines and to benefit from digitalisation efficiency gains.

## Documents

### Useful links & documents

- Event [Agenda](#) (link to the final agenda to be added)
- [Medicines for Europe report on Removing access barriers in Central and Eastern Europe](https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Removing-access-barriers-in-Central-and-Eastern-Europe-April-2022.pdf) - <https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Removing-access-barriers-in-Central-and-Eastern-Europe-April-2022.pdf>
- EFCG - Medicines for Europe [Position paper on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients](#) (link to the final document to be added if available by the date of the event)
- [Medicines for Europe Position paper on public procurement](https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/M-Best-procurement-practices-position-paper_final-version.pdf) - [https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/M-Best-procurement-practices-position-paper\\_final-version.pdf](https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/M-Best-procurement-practices-position-paper_final-version.pdf)