

Ready in a crisis: Medicines for Europe commits at one year anniversary of HERA

Brussels, 08 December 2022

Medicines for Europe members are major suppliers of medicines for health crises. During the COVID pandemic, up to 90% of medicines needed in intensive care units were off patent medicines and our members have donated over 1200 truckloads of medicines to help Ukraine.

The EU Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA), established following experience gathered during the pandemic, aims to safeguard public health in a range of potential crises.

Medicines for Europe is a key partner for HERA and is committed to delivering essential medicines for patients.

To be best prepared, we call on HERA to:

1. Identify the crisis critical medicines and develop scenarios to estimate the demand surges
2. Work with industry to efficiently build up EU reserves and industrial production actions needed to meet those surges. This will require commitments from industry and from the EU to invest in these necessary improvements to supply chain security.
3. Align the work of HERA, the EMA and member states to improve supply chain security and shortage reduction/management. This requires cooperation between industry and government coordinated by the EU to achieve harmonization, digitalization, and investment in manufacturing supply chains.

Speaking at the One year of HERA event in Brussels, Medicines for Europe President Elisabeth Stampa (Medichem) said *“Medicines for Europe’s experience during COVID, delivering ICU medicines in a time of great pressure, showed not just the value of our sector in a crisis but also our agility and ability to respond as a reliable partner. We again delivered for Ukraine, donating over 70 million doses of essential medicines. We are committed to partnering with HERA in their mission to improve health crisis management and save lives. For an efficient partnership, we need clear risk scenarios, better and more interoperable EU data collection systems and a joint EU-industry effort to invest in off-patent medicine manufacturing to increase security of supply and global competitiveness. The time to act is now and we stand ready to cooperate with HERA and all relevant Institutions and stakeholders to improve EU health security.*

Resource hub

Elisabeth Stampa was speaking at the One year of HERA event, organised by the European Commission. For more on this event, see <https://one-year-of-hera.eu/>

Medicines for Europe report on lessons learned from COVID19 available at

<https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MfE-policy-lessons-learned-may-2022-05-09-2022.pdf>