

Future of pharmaceutical policy rests on secure supply of essential medicines

Brussels, 03 May 2023

The recently published EU pharmaceutical revision aims to improve medicines affordability, accessibility, and availability in Europe. The secure supply of essential medicines is the foundation to achieve these goals.

To increase open strategic autonomy in healthcare, Medicines for Europe proposes a Medicines Security Act, with dedicated targeted actions to bolster medicines manufacturing while preventing medicine shortages. These measures include:

- Addressing the root causes of shortages with EU legal guidance on medicines procurement.
- Access to European recovery and resilience funds for the off-patent medicines and API manufacturing sector.
- Support for the green and digital transformation.

Medicines for Europe members deliver equitable and timely access to medicines for all EU patients, accounting for over 70% of dispensed medicines in Europe and covering 80% of therapy areas. Yet more can be done to increase their use and deliver on the potential access gains. Medicines for Europe calls for:

- Uptake measures to encourage greater access to off-patent medicines.
- A flexible regulatory system that facilitates timely access for patients.
- Support for continuous affordable innovation on existing molecules.

Commenting ahead of an event organised at the European Parliament, **Theodore Tryfon, Medicines for Europe Executive Committee member, President of the Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industries, and co-CEO of ELPEN Group** said *“We have learned many lessons over the recent years on the role of medicines in a crisis, but also for routine and chronic patient care. Most of these medicines are off patent, so we must take proportionate action to support the sector. Europe has the opportunity to establish forward looking pharmaceutical policies that focus on the value brought to patients and health systems by the investments of the off-patent industry. We can improve supply chain resilience across EU Member States in the context of the recently published EU pharmaceutical legislation by coordinating policy responses that encourage more manufacturing investments within the EU. Our aim should be to work together with all health stakeholders to counterbalance the already dramatic consolidation which has taken place over the past decades, primarily due to one sided cost-containment measures. This will prevent medicines shortages, increase equitable and timely access to medicines for patients and strengthen the manufacturing eco-system in Europe”*.

Stelios Kypouropoulos, Member of European Parliament and Member of European People’s Party said *“As a rare disease patient, a doctor and a politician this revision is of utmost importance to me. We are facing a crossroad in the European legislation, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to undertake the first major review of the pharmaceutical legislation since 2004, which will adapt the legislation to the current socioeconomic challenges. In the aftermaths of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in view of the State of Health in the EU, we need to have a future-proof and resilient health system for our European citizens. We need to tackle the shortage of medicines and raw materials and strengthen EU’s independency. In the Parliament we will strike that the revision*

will find the right balance between supporting competitiveness and innovation and at the same time accelerating the access to medicines all across EU.”

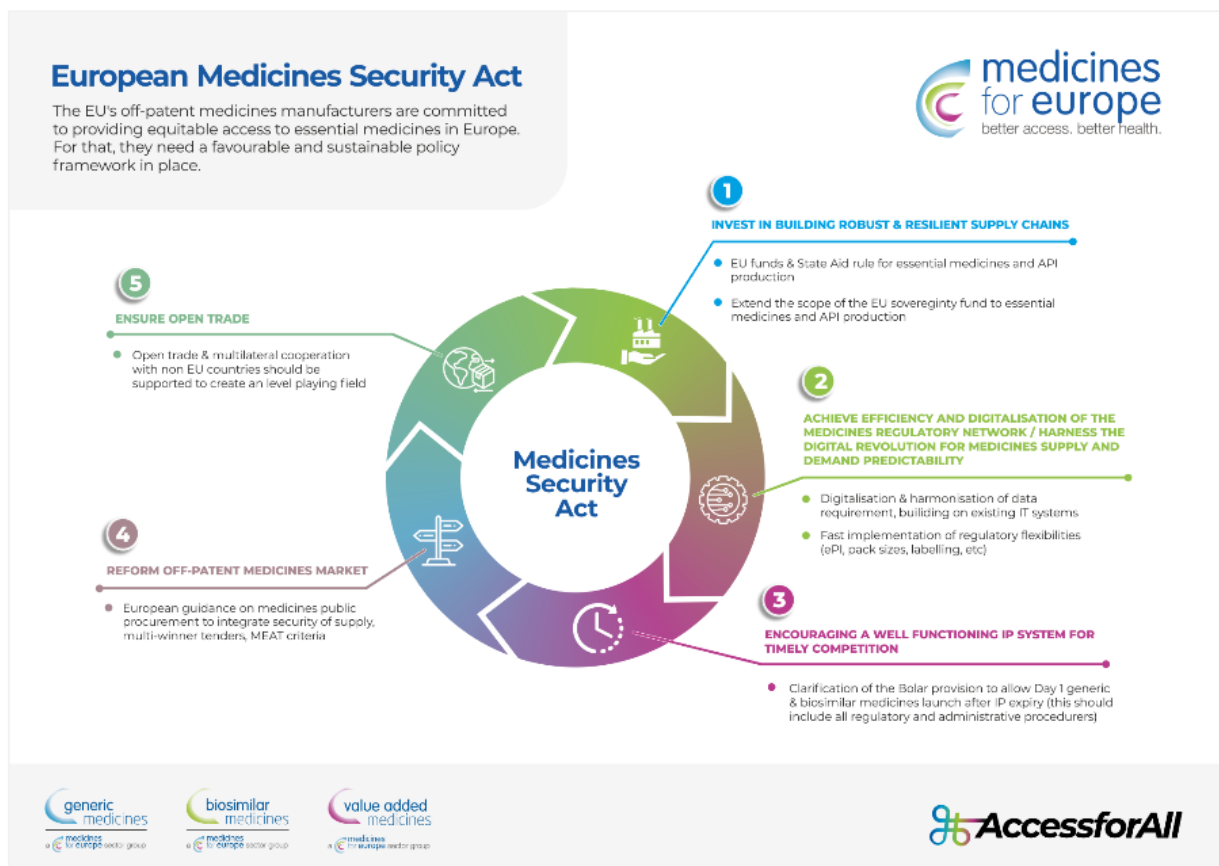
The Vice-President of the European Commission for the Promotion of the European Way of Life ,Mr. Margaritis Schinas in **a written statement in light of the event stated:** *"The new proposal of the European Commission for the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation is a unique opportunity and is of vital importance for patients and for the strengthening and development of one of the key EU industrial sectors. At the core of the new proposal is ensuring patient access to affordable and innovative medicines across the EU and boosting the competitiveness and attractiveness of the European pharmaceutical industry for investment."*

Resource hub

More information for the event “European Pharmaceutical Strategy at a crossroads. Independence versus market consolidation?” on 03 May at 18.00 CET can be found at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/european-pharmaceutical-strategy-on-line-2108989>

Medicines for Europe proposal for a [Medicines security act](#)



Medicines for Europe

Medicines for Europe represents the generic, biosimilar and value-added medicines industries across Europe. Its vision is to provide sustainable access to high quality medicines, based on 5 important pillars: patients, quality, value, sustainability and partnership. Its members directly employ 190,000 people at over 400 manufacturing and 126 R&D sites in Europe and invest up to 17% of their turnover in R&D investment. Medicines for Europe member companies across Europe are both increasing access to medicines and driving improved health outcomes. They play a key role in creating sustainable European healthcare systems by continuing to provide high quality, effective generic medicines, whilst also innovating to create new biosimilar medicines and bringing to market value added medicines, which deliver better health outcomes, greater efficiency and/or improved safety in the hospital setting for patients. For more information, please follow us at www.medicinesforeurope.com and on Twitter @medicinesforEU.