

# Press Release

## Vote to level up the European Health Union in upcoming elections

Brussels, 25 March 2024

The upcoming European elections will have a significant impact on the future of health policy in Europe. EU policies and decisions can shape national health systems and influence the health and well-being of millions of citizens across Europe.

The off patent medicines sector has a proven track record in delivering affordability, accessibility, and sustainability for European health systems. Close to 70% of medicines dispensed in Europe are off patent medicines, making our sector the largest contributor to patient access to medicines.

Medicines for Europe is launching its vision for the future of health policy in Europe, based on policy action in four key areas:

1. **LEAVE NO PATIENT BEHIND:** Reform EU pharmaceutical laws for equitable access by fostering timely competition and sustainable uptake of generic, biosimilar and value added medicines.
2. **BUILD A MODERN REGULATORY NETWORK FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY:** Digitalise, harmonise and automate the medicines regulatory framework.
3. **SECURE EUROPE'S MEDICINE MANUFACTURING:** Invest in the off patent medicines manufacturing industry to make it more competitive, greener, and more digitally focused as well as enhancing its strategic autonomy.
4. **EMPOWER PROGRESS IN HEALTHCARE:** Create a policy for affordable innovation in off-patent medicines.

Commenting on the launch of the Medicines for Europe election manifesto, Association President Elisabeth Stampa said *“The 2024 EU elections come at a critical time for health policy. The world has completely changed since the 2019 elections. We have lived through a global pandemic and now witness war in Eastern Europe. The off patent medicines industry has mobilised to deliver in the toughest of times, but requires coherent policies to sustain our contribution to public health through access, affordable innovation and security of medicines supply. Only together will we deliver the best possible access to medicines and health equity in the European Health Union!”*

## Resource hub

To read the full manifesto, please visit <https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/manifesto-2024/>

To learn more about the European elections, please visit <https://elections.europa.eu/en/>

## Medicines for Europe

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**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](http://www.medicinesforeurope.com) and on Twitter @medicinesforEU.