Biosimilar Strategy pivotal to a stronger European Health Union

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2024 marks the occasion of the 20th annual biosimilar medicines conference. Since its first edition, the conference has been the stage of vivid multi-stakeholders debates and discussions. Year-on-year, it has provided the opportunity to hear for EU and international experts and witness the unfolding of a regulatory-science success story and more importantly, a story where patients and healthcare professionals have observed and realised, the significant health value smart biosimilar medicines policy can bring (over 5.8bn patient treatment days of safe clinical use) while contributing to the sustainability and resilience of healthcare system (€50bn cumulated savings since 2006, €10bn in 2023 alone).

As disease incidence continues to increase and patient need for biological medicines already accounts for 40% of all medicines used, the Biosimilar medicines group calls on a future looking **Biosimilar Strategy for Europe**. This is needed to ensure the European policy framework and global regulatory system secure more biosimilar medicines development, for a wider range of biologic medicines, contributing to reduce access inequities and reducing the burden of chronic diseases.

Focusing on the decade ahead, a comprehensive Biosimilar medicines Strategy for Europe must:

- Further connect and empower all health actors including healthcare professionals, patients, payers, authorities and industry.
- Accelerate the streamlining of regulatory processes that favour patient access and availability for a wider range of biologic medicines.
- Effectively tackle barriers and encourage healthy competition in the biologic sector in the future.
- Improve EU's capacity to measure and reap the full health benefits of biosimilar medicines through the transformation of care pathways, beyond financial savings.
- Support and grow biosimilar manufacturers investments in biomanufacturing, including next generation biotechnologies, as a strategic health and economic sector.

Speaking at the BIOS24 conference in Amsterdam, Isabell Remus, Chair of the Biosimilar medicines sector group at Medicines for Europe said: *"Almost 20 years ago, Europe pioneered a regulatory pathway for biosimilar medicines, paving the way for the rest of the world. We want to continue expanding access to life-changing and lifesaving off-patent biologic therapies in the decades ahead. Decisions are required now, otherwise we will miss many opportunities. We can already follow the science and simplify regulatory approvals wherever we can. Together with smart pricing policies we can see more biosimilars reach the patients who rely on more affordable treatment options."*

Resource hub

More information on the BIOS24 event can be found at https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/events/bios24/

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Data quoted on biosimilar medicines experience can be accessed at The Impact of Biosimilar Competition in Europe' (2023), https://www.iqvia.com/library/white-papers/the-impact-of-biosimilar-competition-in-europe-2023

The Biosimilar medicines group

The Biosimilar Medicines Group is a sector group of Medicines for Europe representing the leading companies developing, manufacturing and/or marketing biosimilar medicines across Europe. With more than 15 years of positive patient treatment experience, biosimilar medicines today provide a huge opportunity to deliver significantly improved access to modern therapies for millions of European patients in both chronic and acute care. Our members bring competition to the biological medicines market, thereby increasing access to highly innovative treatments to patients in Europe and around the world, and supporting the sustainability of the European healthcare systems.