

Press Release

EU critical medicines act must partner with essential industry

Brussels, 24 April 2024

Over 90% of the EU critical medicines list are essential, generic medicines. Medicines for Europe members manufacture these medicines so patients can live better and healthier lives, and health systems can be sustainable and strong to serve them. These medicines include treatments for cardiovascular disease, intensive care units, infections and cancers.

Medicines for Europe is honoured to be a part of the EU Critical Medicines Alliance. This initiative builds on the hard-learned lessons during the pandemic, where the secure supply of medicines was a matter of life or death. Our manufacturers worked tirelessly during that time to meet demands of essential ICU and other needed medicines, which had increased exponentially (up to 900%) in the early days of the covid outbreak.

As a dedicated partner in the Critical Medicines Alliance, Medicines for Europe would like to advance on:

- **A concrete shortage prevention -strategy, with actions to reduce medicines shortages** such as EU procurement guidance in tandem with national market reform, that reward security of supply and a greater use of real-time serialisation (EMVS) data to monitor demand and supply imbalances.
- **Partnership between the EU and our industry** to restore EU manufacturing competitiveness by boosting innovation in production technologies.
- **A shared commitment to ensure access, availability and supply security based on EU solidarity.** This would strive to achieve equity for critical medicines access between EU countries and replacing competitive national stockpiling mandates with a coherent EU reserve policy.

Speaking at the launch of the Critical Medicines Alliance, Medicines for Europe members outlined our presence in Europe, with production in almost every member state of the Union that can manufacture a wide range of medicines and active ingredients. These medicines are relied on by patients across the continent to manage their condition and to live well. Our hope is to see support for our sector take shape in a **dedicated Critical Medicines Act** that covers necessary investment in manufacturing technology, market policies that support diversification and supply chain resilience and digital tools and commitments based on EU solidarity to tackle shortage risks.

Signatories to this statement

Elisabeth Stampa, Medichem, Member of the Board

Rebecca Guntern, Sandoz, President Europe

Markus Sieger, Polpharma, CEO

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Lucas Sigman, Insud Pharma, CEO

Theodore Tryfon, co-CEO of ELPEN Group and President of PEF

Andreas Loizou, Medochemie, Group Business Development Director

Resource hub

Medicines for Europe's proposal for a critical medicines act can be accessed at <https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/docs/European-Critical-Medicines-Act.pdf>

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.