

# Press Release

## EU Health Union has promise to deliver on equitable access to medicines

Brussels, 30 May 2024

One of the key milestones of the current European Commission mandate on health has been achieved with the formal establishment of the European Health Union. Initiated by the importance of coordinated action during the pandemic, the Health Union promises to improve access to medicines with available, accessible and affordable medicines.

The generic, biosimilar and value added medicines industry provides 70% of medicines dispensed in Europe and 9/10 critical medicines.

Equitable access to essential off patent medicines relies on:

- Timely conclusion of the revision of the pharmaceutical legislation
- Establishment of a Critical Medicines Act to ensure security of medicine supply
- Continued investment in health challenges including medicines manufacturing, timely off patent medicines competition on Day-1 after IP expiry, fighting AMR, embracing digital tools, and pragmatic regulatory flexibilities.

Commenting on the establishment of the European Health Union, Adrian van den Hoven, Director General of Medicines for Europe said *“The EU Health Union was built on some of the very hard learned lessons during the EU response to Covid-19. We commend this initiative and call on the EU to level up it, by improving equitable and timely access to medicines for those who need it most in the Pharma review. Through the Critical Medicines Alliance, we will work for a Critical Medicines Act to strengthen manufacturing and reduce shortages, which we hope to be prioritised in the first 100 days of the next Commission mandate.”*

The European Commission communication on the European Health Union, published on 22 May 2024 can be found at [https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6e26bad9-5722-4c95-8bc5-4c21d8e370dd\\_en?filename=policy\\_com-2024-206\\_en.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6e26bad9-5722-4c95-8bc5-4c21d8e370dd_en?filename=policy_com-2024-206_en.pdf)

Medicines for Europe’s manifesto, Levelling up the European Health Union, can be accessed at <https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/manifesto-2024/>

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