

Press Release

EU medicines procurement policy must 'prescribe' security of supply for patients

Brussels, 23 May 2024

Today, the European Commission presented EU guidance on public procurement of medicines which is critical to improve the security of supply for patients and health systems. There is a need for concrete improvements to the procurement process, including better demand predictability and ensuring multiple suppliers on the market. Reform of generic and biosimilar medicine procurement policies is needed to encourage more manufacturers to invest in EU supply.

Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) award criteria for policy objectives, such as security of supply or environmental protection, should be aligned across the EU. Award criteria needs to recognise the significance of these investments and therefore move away from lowest price as the sole criteria for medicine procurement. This makes EU procurement guidance that would provide legal clarity to both procurers and suppliers extremely valuable.

EU procurement guidance should design better tenders and include:

- Securing supply with multi-award tenders or ensuring several suppliers are active on the market (regional tenders with different awardees).
- Increasing demand predictability with realistic volume estimates and sufficient lead-times,
- Ensuring that supply penalties are proportionate and the possibility to adjust pricing in justified cases (i.e. inflation or major disruption).
- Introducing MEAT criteria to incorporate environmental sustainability and supply chain reliability in procurement.

Medicines for Europe's position on procurement reform is available at:

<https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Position-paper-proposal-for-EU-procurement-guidelines-Final.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](https://twitter.com/medicinesforEU).