

Press statement following meeting with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on tariffs

08/04/2025

Medicines for Europe statement following the meeting

Medicines for Europe and its delegation thanks President Von der Leyen for a strategic dialogue on how the European Commission can best support the pharmaceutical sector. The President and the Health Commissioner are committed to helping the industry and patients in Europe who rely on medicines for better health.

Tariffs are a regressive and counterproductive and would disrupt global supply chains, cause shortages of critical and essential medicines and undermine patient access. This is why advanced economies have agreed on World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules to exempt pharmaceuticals from tariffs.

To support the Commission and protect the unique value of the pharmaceutical industry, Medicines for Europe has developed a 5-step action plan for pharmaceuticals.

five action areas are:

1. **Continue diplomatic efforts to prevent the imposition of tariffs on EU medicines** and active pharmaceutical ingredients. This is critical to avoid shortages and very real harm to patients.
2. **Review complex and burdensome legislation** that undermine pharmaceutical activities in Europe and negatively affect patient access and security of supply like the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and restrictions on substances required for manufacturing.
3. **Accelerate industrial policies** like the Critical Medicines Act and the Biotech Act as state aid and tax deferments will be necessary to counter the effect of the competitiveness shock caused by potential tariffs.
4. **Adopt the EU pharma legislation** with balanced regulatory incentives that health care systems can afford and clear rules to allow day-1 competition after patent expiry and accelerate the digital transformation of regulation and of the sector.
5. **Build EU action on strategic autonomy**, championing EU solidarity over division and most importantly, prioritising the access and security of medicines.

Following the meeting, Medicines for Europe calls on the EU and President Von der Leyen to focus on strengthening the EU manufacturing competitiveness as per our five-point plan for pharmaceuticals while remaining open to international trade and cooperation. We are committed to continuing this partnership and appreciate the outreach from the European Commission on this important matter.

Medicines for Europe's full position on tariffs is available at <https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Medicines-for-Europe-Position-Paper-US-Tariffs-7-April-2025-1.pdf>