

Press Release

Parliament makes the Critical Medicines Act meaningful but significant risks to future access persist

Brussels, 20 January 2026

The CMA Plenary vote marks a significant milestone towards a robust Act to deliver European open strategic autonomy and address the economic root causes of medicine shortages by:

- Boosting **mandatory security of medicine supply measures** in both medicine public procurement and national pricing and reimbursement.
- Introducing robust financial support via a **Critical Medicines Security Fund** and a new fit for purpose state aid guidance – including frameworks other than SGEI – to support upgrades or reshoring for innovative production processes.
- **Defending European solidarity across Member States** so that medicines go to patients instead of being wasted in disproportionate national stockpiles.

Despite these encouraging steps forward, significant outside risks that threaten access to medicines remain. Obligations introduced outside the health framework, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility mechanisms under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, raise concerns around a lack of proper data quality, methodology and proportionality. These measures undermine supply-chain planning, disproportionately impacting low-margin generic medicines, and ultimately weaken the availability and secure supply of essential and critical medicines. This law must be amended.

Medicines for Europe Director General Adrian van den Hoven commented: *“This plenary vote is further confirmation that the European Parliament recognises the need for policies that strengthen critical medicines supplies and reduce shortages. We applaud the progressive position to advance Europe’s health security with this important vote. We are ready to work with the co-legislators to deliver a meaningful act that will enable the off-patent medicines sector to be competitive, especially in today’s unpredictable geopolitical landscape. Moreover, the CMA’s objectives should not be undermined by outside factors such as the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive that must be urgently paused.”*

Notes for editors

Resource hub:

- [Position paper on the Critical Medicines Act](#)
- [Factsheet on demand side measures](#)
- [National competences on mandatory security of supply criteria in procurement and pricing & reimbursement under the Critical Medicines Act](#)
- [Factsheet on stockpiling measures](#)
- [Factsheet on funding](#)
- [Ramboll study on Micropollutants in Urban Wastewater](#)

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 [LinkedIn](#) and X [@medicinesforEU](#).