

Press Release

Critical Medicines Act: a step forward for secure medicines supply

Brussels, 15 May 2026

The Critical Medicines Act (CMA) is an essential legislation for health security. The Act introduces market reforms based on supply security and addresses disproportionate national stockpiling which fragments the Internal Market and disrupts supply in smaller countries. The CMA reinforces EU solidarity for the benefit of all patients, regardless of the country they reside in. The success of the CMA will now depend on swift implementation to address the economic drivers of medicine shortages.

Looking ahead, the ambition of the CMA must be matched by concrete follow up measures. The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Competitiveness Fund should dedicate funding for critical medicine and active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturing in Europe. At the same time, a reform of the EU public procurement framework is urgently needed to stabilise the market and support a secure and diversified supply. These measures are urgent as war in the Middle East and poorly designed EU legislation, such as the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), are certain to inflate the costs of medicine production in Europe. Without reform, some medicines will become unviable to manufacture and supply for Europe.

Medicines for Europe Director General Adrian van den Hoven commented: *“The Act is the first European step to strengthen critical medicines supplies and reduce shortages. The next EU budget should include a competitiveness €4 billion fund to support generic medicine and API production. This would support upgrades for security of supply or resilience for over 150 production sites in Europe and would be important for national security interests. Moreover, the CMA’s objectives should not be undermined by harmful laws like the UWWTD that must be urgently paused.”*

Resource hub

- [Position paper on the Critical Medicines Act](#)
- [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.

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