

## Press Release

# The off patent medicines industry is a strategic partner for Europe

Athens, 10 June 2026

Generic, biosimilar and value added medicines are a cornerstone of Europe's pharmaceutical ecosystem. As highlighted at the Medicines for Europe [Annual Conference](#) in Athens, the off-patent industry is a **strategic partner for**:

- **Health systems and patient access:** generic medicines account for 70% of EU prescriptions, biosimilar medicines are expanding access to cancer treatments; and value added continuous innovation in cardiovascular care can reduce cardiovascular events by up to 25%.
- **Jobs, investments and growth:** the sector manufactures across more than 400 sites in Europe, 51 in Greece alone - generating 190.000 high-skilled direct jobs.
- **Health security:** ensuring reliable medicines supply in the event of health emergencies or other crises.

EU health, industrial and environmental policies should create opportunities for more investment in this strategic sector.

- **Sustainable market reforms** should reward security of supply and move away from price-only criteria and single winner tenders, along the lines of the successful Greek multi-winner tendering system for critical hospital medicines.
- **Industrial incentives in the EU budget** should encourage manufacturing investment and competitiveness in Europe, and we are proud to see the considerable investment of our sector in Greece.
- **Greater** pharmaceutical, industrial and environmental policy coherence to ensure that the security of medicines supply is not put in jeopardy by poorly designed laws such as the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

**In Greece, findings based on robust scientific evidence and real-world measurements show that pharmaceutical residues account for only around 7–8% of the toxic load in urban wastewater, according to a recent study by Professor Nikolaos Thomaidis. These findings call into question the European Commission's estimate of up to 66%, which underpins the UWWTD EPR system.**

***Statement by Minister of State Akis Skertsos on behalf of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the Annual Conference of Medicines for Europe: "Pharmaceutical manufacturing is one of the most dynamic sectors of the Greek economy and, at the same time, a strategic pillar of Europe's resilience and competitiveness. Over the past years, Greece has emerged as a major pharmaceutical manufacturing and innovation hub in Europe, attracting significant investments, strengthening research and development capabilities, and creating thousands of highly skilled jobs. At a time of growing geopolitical uncertainty and intensifying global competition, strengthening***

*Europe's pharmaceutical production capacity is not only an economic imperative; it is also a matter of strategic autonomy and security. Ensuring reliable access to critical medicines for European citizens is an essential component of a stronger and more resilient Europe. Greece is committed to contributing actively to this common European objective.*

*At the same time, we send a clear message to the international investment community: Greece is a modern, stable and reliable destination for productive investment, research and innovation. Through consistent reforms, political stability and a highly skilled workforce, our country offers an attractive environment for long-term investment in advanced manufacturing, biotechnology and health technologies. Looking ahead to Greece's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027, we will continue to work with our European partners towards a Europe that is more competitive, more innovative and more strategically autonomous in critical sectors such as health and pharmaceuticals. Greece does not simply aspire to participate in Europe's future. We aspire to help shape it".*

**Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Health, of the Hellenic Republic said:** *"Europe's healthcare systems depend on secure access to affordable, high-quality medicines. The off-patent medicines sector is indispensable not only for patient access but also for the resilience of our health systems and the security of our medicine supply. As Europe pursues important environmental and industrial objectives, it must ensure greater policy coherence. Europe cannot simultaneously call for greater strategic autonomy in medicines and adopt policies that make pharmaceutical manufacturing less competitive. Legislation should strengthen, not undermine, Europe's capacity to manufacture essential medicines and safeguard patients' access to treatment."*

**Keynote by Takis Theodorikakos, Minister of Development, Hellenic Republic** *"The pharmaceutical industry is one of Greece's most dynamic manufacturing sectors, creating high-value jobs, attracting investment and strengthening our country's productive base. Generic, biosimilar and value added medicines manufacturers are making significant investments in Greece and across Europe. Our objective is to create a competitive environment, strengthen our industrial foundations in sectors that are critical for Europe's strategic autonomy, security and economic prosperity."*

**Steffen Saltofte, President of Medicines for Europe, speaking at the Annual Conference said** *"At a time of geopolitical pressure and major legislative changes, Europe must engage with the off patent medicines sector as a strategic partner for patient access, resilience and competitiveness. Our sector provides around 70 % of all medicines in Europe and is investing heavily in Europe's healthcare and security needs - but we can do so much more as a trusted strategic partner."*

**Theodore E. Tryfon, Vice-President Medicines for Europe (Greek Presidency), President of PEF & CEO Elpen Group:** *"Europe's off-patent medicines industry is no longer simply a healthcare partner; it is a strategic pillar of Europe's health security, economic resilience and industrial competitiveness. If Europe wants secure access to medicines, resilient supply chains and high-quality manufacturing jobs, it must create the conditions that allow pharmaceutical production and innovation to thrive within Europe."*

## Resource hub

For more information on Medicines for Europe's Annual Conference, you can consult [#MedsforEU26](#). The positions on legislative proposals can be found via the following links:

- [Critical Medicines Act](#)

- [Biotech Act](#)
- [Public Procurement Directive](#)
- [Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive](#)



## 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 visit: [www.medicinesforeurope.com](http://www.medicinesforeurope.com), follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and X [@medicinesforEU](#).