

## Press release

# UWWTD: European Parliament stands with patients and security of medicine supplies

Brussels, 18 June 2026

Today Parliament's vote marks a significant milestone for patient access to medicines.

It reflects growing concern across the European Institutions that the current UWWTD text is based on insufficient scientific evidence and could have serious unintended consequences for the availability and affordability of medicines in Europe.

This vote comes after a strong call for new evidence from the Health Council where 17 Member States called for new evidence on access and availability before any implementation is in place.

Medicines for Europe urges the European Commission to act on these calls and urgently pause the EPR scheme, undertake a comprehensive independent reassessment of the implementation framework, including its methodology, economic assumptions and potential impact on medicine supply. The support of health authorities and relevant stakeholders would be key in this process. The support of European and National health authorities, as well as the relevant stakeholders, would be key in this process.

**Adrian van den Hoven, Director General of Medicines for Europe, said:** *"Today's vote sends a clear message: Europe cannot put access to essential medicines for millions of patients at risk on the basis of a flawed methodology and inadequate evidence base. After a strong call from Ministers of Health, the Parliament has recognised the need to pause implementation and reassess the real-world impact of these measures. The Commission should now act on that call by temporarily pausing the implementation of EPR to undertake a comprehensive review of the EPR system, including its methodology, economic assumptions and potential impact on medicine supply. We support environmental policy that must be evidence-based, proportionate and should not threaten patient access to medicines."*

## 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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