Press Release

New public procurement rules must safeguard patient access and encourage investment in manufacturing and supply resilience

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Procurement should support competition, and for medicines, resilience, sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply. The Public Procurement reform must therefore help translate these objectives into concrete rules by delivering:

- **MEAT criteria should be standard,** moving away from price-only tendering, which apply in for medicine procurement contracts up to 84% of countries. Mandatory MEAT criteria are clearly needed to integrate quality, delivery reliability and sustainability through meaningful quality weighting into medicine procurement.
- **Multi-winner tenders and appropriate lot division** should be the norm for medicine procurement, to avoid market consolidation which is directly linked to shortages.
- **More predictable demand for manufacturing planning**, including realistic demand forecasts, adequate lead times and clearer volume allocation, so that suppliers can plan production and remain in the market.
- **Stronger scrutiny on abnormally low bids (**price dumping**)**, to ensure that unsustainable offers do not undermine supply continuity or accelerate market exits.

Dedicated guidance for medicines procurement will be essential. Medicines are strategic and require specific procurement processes as they have long production timelines, strict regulatory requirements, limited margins and, in many cases, too much consolidation of manufacturing.

Commenting on the Public Procurement Act, Medicines for Europe Director General Adrian van den Hoven said *"Public procurement is one of the main levers shaping medicine availability in Europe: around 40% of medicines are purchased through procurement procedures, mainly in hospital settings. A well-functioning medicine procurement system is key to ensure Europe's health security and to encourage more investment in manufacturing and supply chain resilience."*

Background documents

More information on Medicines for Europe position paper: Public Procurement Position paper

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Medicines for Europe

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