

BUILDING A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE EU HEALTH INDUSTRY

Brussels, November 25th, 2020

The European Commission presented today its much awaited and ambitious Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe.

The patient-centered strategy unveiled by Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides and Vice-President Margaritis Schinas aims to ensure the quality and safety of medicines in the EU while boosting the sector's global competitiveness. Building on the EU's strong foundations and comprehensive pharmaceuticals system, it will ensure that patients have access to high-quality, effective and safe medicines.

In a recent communication EFCG pointed out that "the unprecedented global health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has hit Europe particularly hard and has highlighted the weaknesses of our continent in terms of health strategic autonomy. Formerly the global hub for the synthesis of pharmaceutical ingredients, Europe has gradually lost its ability to manufacture critical molecules that form the building blocks of essential medicines. As a result, Europe's dependence on other world regions poses an unacceptable risk for the European healthcare system. In recent years, increased occurrences of shortages of essential medicines in Europe not only constituted a health safety risk for patients but also placed a very heavy financial burden on healthcare systems. **The European Health industry's long-term resilience will depend on its ability to maintain and develop its existing industrial base as well as investing in new technologies to selectively reshore essential medicines supply chains.**"

EFCG members, forming a strong network of manufacturing sites across Europe dedicated to the production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and their precursors, provide a strong base on which to build a resilient and sustainable European pharmaceutical industry that is competitive, innovative, and sustainable. They are the ultimate guarantees of Europe's strategic health autonomy, providing critical molecules along the value chain of essential medicines and adapting their production to the needs of the Healthcare Industry, especially during medical crises. Reinforcing this industry will strongly contribute to preventing future shortages from impacting European patients and will guarantee a robust and resilient supply chain.

Says Ms. Saykali, EFCG's director: "EFCG has created a specific task force in 2018 to tackle the then emerging issue of medicine supply chain risks. Throughout the last months, EFCG has been working closely with the European Commission to identify the root causes of medicines shortages, map the existing industrial network and propose a series of measures to be rapidly implemented at EU level within the framework of the Pharmaceutical Roadmap."

Other world regions have wasted no time in launching strong initiatives to ensure their health sovereignty. Europe cannot afford to fall behind, and we are happy that the European Commission plans to implement, as quickly as possible, robust measures that will ensure its own self-reliance. We look forward to continuing to support the European Commission and help ensure that this Pharmaceutical

EFCG

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Strategy achieves a resilient, autonomous and sustainable EU Health Industry that places the patient at the heart of its agenda.

About EFCG

EFCG was formed in 2004 to be the focus, forum and voice of the European fine chemicals and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients manufacturers. We are a non-profit international sector group within Cefic, the Brussels-based European Chemical Industry Council. EFCG represents over 100 organisations.

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About EFCG
For more information, please visit www.efcg.cefic.org.

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