

Ensuring Security of Supply for Medicines

Legislative reforms aligned with current off-patent market conditions are the precondition for a coherent policy to improve the secure supply of essential medicines, says Medicines for Europe, which represents the generic, biosimilar and value-added medicines industries across Europe.

The EU structured dialogue on medicines manufacturing is a critical first step to align stakeholders on workable reforms.

“As the biggest supplier of prescription medicines, our industry is committed to improving security of supply in Europe,” says the organisation.

For security of supply, legislative reform should cover:

1. Up-to-date European regulation based on interconnected digital tools to improve the predictability of supply and demand on the EU market.
2. Alignment of Member States on security of supply based on EU solidarity – notably on what are critical products, to reward companies for investments in supply chain resilience, notably by introducing smart multi criteria tenders, and to prevent distortive national stockpiling requirements.
3. Restore European leadership in manufacturing by adapting state aid rules to enable

the generic medicines and API industry to participate in national Recovery and Resilience plans for green and digital technology investments.

Speaking at the EU Structured Dialogue, Medicines for Europe President, Christoph Stoller (TEVA) outlined, “Pharmaceutical and industrial policy, must be an enabler for robust supply chains and support our industry efforts to mitigate and address the root causes of supply chain vulnerabilities, while ultimately supporting more investments in European manufacturing. The urgency is to agree and implement smart regulatory and economic policies! In the off patent sector, the race to the lowest price has

reached its limit. And rather than punishing companies via penalties or by implementing distortive national requirements such as stockpiling, we should think win win.”

Medicines for Europe Vice President Rebecca Guntern (Sandoz) said, “We need to jointly design a coherent policy to ensure security of supply for essential medicines, which is better aligned with the prevailing market conditions for off-patent medicines. Medicine manufacturing costs cannot be compressed indefinitely. We need policies that enable a meaningful digital framework, promote flexible regulatory systems and phase out unhelpful and short-sighted cost-containment measures.”

Medicines.ie Recognised for Innovation

Medicines.ie, a website owned by the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association, has been recognised for innovation by the Pharma Industry Awards.

The website, Ireland’s most accessible source of accurate and reliable medicines information, placed second in the ‘Innovation of the Year’ category.

Medicines.ie is an online resource that provides patient information leaflets, a summary of product characteristics (SmPCs) and educational materials (risk management materials) for most medicines on the Irish market.

The platform’s content is easily searchable and the functionality is intuitive. It is available on desktop, on mobile and on tablet.

IPHA plans to add new features that enhance the user experience for people working in healthcare and medicine, and for the public. From early next year, pictures of each medicine pack will be displayed beside each medicine. There are plans for a new homepage, with product updates and key trends and statistics.