



European  
Commission

# A European Health Union: A Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe

25 NOVEMBER 2020

The strategy covers the full lifecycle of a medicine



Research and  
innovation



Authorisation, Health  
Technology Assessment  
and placing on the market



Securing supplies  
of medicines



Delivery to  
patients

## THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

**€37 billion**  
contributed to research  
investment (in 2019)

**800 000**  
direct jobs

**€110 billion**  
trade surplus

Each year  
**more than 60**  
new medicines  
authorised at EU level

**Scientific excellence:** the European Medicines Agency and national medicines regulators have **thousands of experts from across Europe**, offering scientific advice of the highest quality

## WHERE WE ARE



More than **12 million people** infected with COVID-19 in Europe



Increasing pharmaceutical budgets, already accounting for **20-30% of hospital expenditures**



**Medicines not always available or affordable**



**Still unmet needs**  
Antimicrobial resistance responsible for about 33 000 deaths yearly  
95% of rare diseases are without treatment option

## WHAT WE INTEND TO ADDRESS:

## HOW WE INTEND TO DO IT:

### Unmet needs



- **Research and innovation** for new treatments, vaccines and antibiotics
- Align **clinical trials** to patient and health system needs



### Access to affordable medicines



- EU level cooperation on **pricing** and **reimbursement policies**
- More **competition** from generic and biosimilar medicines
- Promotion of **health technology assessment**



### Digitalisation and new technologies



- Investment in **research, development and manufacturing** of new medicines
- Enable cutting-edge products, scientific developments and **technological transformation**



### Anticipation and response to major health crises and open strategic autonomy



- **Stronger supply chains**, with strategic stockpiling and more production and investment in Europe
- Establishment of a **EU Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA)**
- Reduction of the **environmental impact** of medicines



The Pharmaceutical Strategy will be the **EU's strong voice in the world**, promoting global standards for accessible, safe, effective high-quality medicines.

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