

## Medicines: the Leem denounces unfair, incomprehensible and short-term measures

On 9 November 2011, the Minister for health announced that the pharmaceutical industry would once again be tapped in the amount of €290 million, primarily with regard to the generic policy, as part of the plan to reduce the government deficits announced by the Prime Minister on 7 November. This measure means that, on their own, drug companies will be bearing 3/5ths of the €500 million of additional savings decided upon relative to health insurance, even though medicines now only account for 18% of the total healthcare spending.

This new penalty would come on top of a recent series of extremely damaging measures for the activities and development of companies in the sector:

- price cuts in the area of €620 million announced as part of the 2012 PLFSS (social security draft finance law), instead of the average annual €400 million in the 5 previous years,
- the establishment of an additional €150 million tax in order to finance the continuing education of physicians, even though the drug companies already pay 11 sector-specific levies in the amount of more than €850 million (i.e. 4 points of turnover, in addition to the ordinary law taxation),
- an additional €40 million contribution to the budget of the future Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament (ANSM - National medicine safety agency),
- as well as a new wave of non-reimbursements of medicines, to the tune of €40 million.

In all, the additional levies on the pharmaceutical industry will amount to €700 million in 2012, an unprecedented level.

For many years, drug companies have been participating in the efforts to control healthcare spending. Medicine is the best controlled item, with growth objectives set by Parliament and respected for the last 3 years.

As recalled in a recent study by the BIPE, published in September 2011 (“Le médicament, un économiseur de coûts” -- study available on [www.leem.org](http://www.leem.org)), medicines have made it possible to generate savings in the area of 4% on average each year, over the 2005-2010 period, and now represent the main contributor to the policy for the medical control of healthcare expenses.

**The Leem denounces these unfair, incomprehensible and short-term measures. These are anti-manufacturing measures.** They will weaken a strategic business sector for our country and hinder France on the field of international competition. They contradict the ambitions stated for many years, namely to make France one of the great countries for life sciences.

The Leem once again decries the waste that is undermining one of the country’s most promising growth sectors.

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