

9th February 2012

2012 Presidential Election Leem enters the debate!

After a year marked by the Mediator scandal and the reform of the French drug evaluation system, Leem is addressing an open letter to France's presidential candidates entitled: **The Pharmaceutical Industry at the heart of the French challenge**. As well as making several propositions, the letter calls on parliamentary members and health industry stakeholders to examine the future of the French industry and its role in therapeutic innovation.

Leem would like to hear the candidates' opinions on several strategic issues:

- Are they, or not, fully aware of the constraints imposed upon these high tech companies involved in scientific and industrial challenges on an international scale?
- Do they, or not, fully understand how important it is for France to develop a specific policy for the health industry?

- **Leem makes 4 propositions:**

1- To take up the challenge of innovation and safety by developing policies that foster scientific cooperation between both public and private research institutions.

2- To opt for forward-looking industrial policies, by bolstering industrial production in France, in successfully managing change in pharmaceutical production and developing biotechnology.

3- To make France more attractive in face of international competition, by ensuring compatibility between drug regulatory policies and policies to boost France's competitive edge.

4- To establish accountability and transparency at the heart of the system, by involving all the relevant stakeholders and by working together to promote the "right use" of drugs

By putting forward these propositions, Leem hopes to participate in strengthening France's high tech industry that is renowned for the excellence of its industrial and scientific skills. It intends to promote policies that lead to an increase in French appeal and international competitiveness. In short, it wishes to prioritize new approaches in health economics that highlight the contribution of health products in creating wealth.

- **Regional debates, a meeting in Paris.**

Throughout February and March, Leem will discuss drug-related issues alongside regional politicians and other leading public figures on invitation by the local press: Toulouse on 8th February, Strasbourg on 22nd February, Lyon on 29th February, Agen on 9th March and Clermont-Ferrand on 14th March.

A large meeting will be held at the Mutualité in Paris on 21st March at 7pm to conclude on these debates in the presence of politicians.

Christian Lajoux, President of Leem points out: *"In a few weeks time, one of the current presidential candidates will take on the major responsibility of running our country. It will then be up to this person to make the decisions that will enable France to maintain both its position as a global player of therapeutic progress and as a prime example in patient safety. It will be up to this person to maintain both conventional dialogue and a mutual vision of industrial stakes as a means of developing drug policies. And finally, it will be up to this person to show the rest of the world that our country wants to continue nurturing conditions for scientific and medical excellence, industrial growth and employment."*

Full content of these propositions can be found on the enclosed document or on the website: www.leem.org

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