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French Social Security Finance Bill for 2019

Leem demands a coherent medicines policy

At today's meeting of the Social Security Audit Board, Gérald Darmanin, the Minister for Public Action and Accounts, and Agnès Buzyn, the Minister for Solidarity and Health, revealed publicly the outlines of the Social Security Finance Bill for 2019.

A first step towards implementing the decisions of the CSIS...

Leem notes that this bill will incorporate a number of commitments given by the Prime Minister at the 8th meeting of the Strategic Council for Healthcare Industries (CSIS) on 10 July this year.

More specifically, this text should simplify the financial regulation methods applied to the industry, and include extensions of indications within the scope of the Temporary Authorisation for Use (ATU) mechanism.

Nevertheless, Leem regrets that the government has chosen to set the threshold for triggering the safeguard clause at the 'floor' level of 0.5% of total industry revenue. It also points to the commitment entered into at the same CSIS meeting to guarantee 3% minimum growth for innovative medicines.

Leem will pay extremely close attention to the practical conditions for actually implementing these reforms.

... But an increasingly disproportionate contribution to controlling healthcare expenditure

With more than €1 billion in price cuts, medicines are being used more than ever before as the main variable for adjusting health insurance accounts. This unprecedented level, which contradicts the targets set by the CSIS for boosting the appeal of France for inward industry investment, raises questions about the coherence of medicines policy.

The disproportionate contribution required from the pharmaceuticals sector towards healthcare expenditure economies is weakening the manufacturing base of our country, compromising the agreement-based policy established with the Economic Committee for Health Products (CEPS), and making patient access to treatment increasingly fragile.

“The measures adopted last July at the meeting of the Strategic Council for Healthcare Industries (CSIS) to boost the appeal of France as a target for inward investment by the industry must not be contradicted by dissuasive regulation measures. The same is true of the credibility of government action, the same is true of the future of the manufacturing base and research in France, but most crucially, the same is true of patient access to innovative treatments”, says Leem Chairman Philippe Tcheng.

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