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The French Social Security Finance Bill for 2023:
Over €3 billion in savings on medicines

A government U-Turn on France's ambitions of health innovation and manufacturing sovereignty, and ultimately a threat to the ability of the French population to access the medicines they need

The government has - with zero prior consultation - brought forward a Social Security Finance Bill that represents a complete disconnect from the medication needs of French people and the realities faced by our pharmaceutical companies.

On examination, the 2023 budget envelope for pharmaceutical products seems deliberately to be set below the level required to meet the real needs experienced by the French population. The proposed figure is 7% lower than that for the current year (€24.6 billion for 2023, compared with the €26.4 billion estimated for 2022).

Furthermore, these decisions have been made at a time when the country has yet to fully overcome the effects of the Covid-19 crisis and when patients in France are struggling to gain access to the latest innovative products. In addition, the inflation and the government's pricing policy are undermining the research, innovation and manufacturing models of every company in the industry to the point where the very existence of many SMEs involved in manufacturing essential pharmaceutical products is in jeopardy.

This bill denies the commitments of the 2018 and 2021 Strategic Councils for the Healthcare Industries ("Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan"). For purely accounting purposes, it gives its blessing to a U-turn on any ambition to achieve health sovereignty.

Several measures proposed by the government will make it even more difficult for French patients to access the treatments they need by increasing the likelihood of supply shortages and slowing down the process of allowing innovative pharmaceutical products to access the French market.

"This bill abruptly turns back the clock on a five-year period of reforms designed not only to improve the country's attractiveness in terms of inward investment, but also to ensure that our fellow citizens have access to innovative treatments and stability of pharmaceutical product

supply. We appeal to the President and the government to conduct a profound review of this draft legislation, and choose innovation, investment and growth, rather than opt for a policy that will destroy value and jobs, which will ultimately penalise the health of the French population", states Thierry Hulot, President of Leem.

The Leem Board of Directors will hold an emergency meeting this evening to discuss the full range of consequences flowing from the announcements made so far by government.

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