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France's pharmaceutical companies have taken note of the Government's stated desire to reopen dialogue with the industry through the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan.
They also point out that the success of this plan depends on reinstating the economic conditions required to re-establish the attractiveness of France for inward investment.

On Friday 17 February, our pharmaceutical company members will attend an interministerial meeting to discuss the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan launched in 2021 by the French President with the intention of *"making France the leading European nation in terms of health innovation and sovereignty by 2030"*.

The meeting will be attended by Sylvie Retailleau, the Minister for Higher Education and Research, François Braun, the Minister for Health and Preventive Care, Roland Lescure, the Minister of State for Industry, and Olivier Becht, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, and will give pharmaceutical industry leaders the opportunity to share a progress report on the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan.

They will also express their deep concern regarding the current situation of the pharmaceutical industry in France following the decisions reached in the most recent Social Security Finance Act (for 2023), and the further aggravating effects of inflation. In practical terms, the Act has the effect of impeding implementation of the initiatives set out in the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan.

The budget for expenditure on medicines is now totally disconnected from the actual needs of patients, the safeguard clause mechanism introduces a level of over-taxation unparalleled anywhere else in the European Union, the increase in clawback payments is exponential, and the level of price cuts demanded (€800 million in 2023) is completely incompatible with increased cost of inputs. Furthermore, this budget shortfall impacts on patient access to treatments, as evidenced by France's excessive exposure to shortages of medicines, the non-arrival in France of innovations available in the rest of Europe, and the weakening of the mechanisms intended to provide early patient access to innovative medicines.

Moreover, the budgetary policy for medicines effectively prevents the establishment of the sustainable economic conditions essential for maintaining and reshoring production of essential and innovative medicines in this country.

It is for these reasons that the pharmaceutical companies will be paying particularly close attention to the conclusions reached by the mission launched at the end of January this year by the Prime Minister, which should provide the opportunity to completely rethink the regulation and funding of healthcare products in ways that will allow them to adapt to the new challenges faced by the industry, future innovation and patient expectations.

They will also remind the meeting that they have suspended renegotiation of the Leem-CEPS framework agreement, and that in the coming months will introduce a barometer survey of access to medicines as the basis for assessing and quantifying the impact of this shortfall in resources on patient access to medicines.

The pharmaceutical companies of France remain committed to achieving the goals set out in the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan, which they welcomed. They are now calling for genuine alignment and consistency between the goal of increasing national attractiveness for inward investment and the resources actually allocated to this strategy.

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