

## The Leem response to the ministerial meeting of 21 February 2024

### **Combatting medicine shortages: Leem is more ready than ever to work directly for the benefit of patients by contributing to the new Government roadmap**

On Wednesday 21 February, Labour, Health and Solidarity Minister Catherine Vautrin, Junior Health Minister Frédéric Valletoux and Junior Industry and Energy Minister Roland Lescure unveiled the French Government's roadmap for achieving guaranteed availability of medicines and safeguarding national pharmaceutical manufacturing sovereignty in the longer term.

***“Leem welcomes the introduction of this interministerial roadmap, which incorporates many of the proposals put forward by Leem last spring. More focused than ever to ensure that French patients have access to medicines essential for their health, Leem used this opportunity to reassert its uncompromising commitment to engage in dialogue and active initiatives with all stakeholders to address this situation”*** says Leem Chairman Thierry Hulot.

The four priorities set out in the Government roadmap, which echo many of the points contained in the May 2023 Leem plan to combat medicine shortages and our recommendations around the proper use of medicines, are appropriate for mitigating the situation in large part over the short and medium term.

In terms of **PRIORITY I (*Signal detection and a graduated action plan to deal with supply chain pressures and shortages*)**, the Government correctly points out that the good practice guidelines signed in November 2023 have delivered tangible improvements this winter, and more specifically a more even distribution of amoxicillin stocks across pharmacies.

Leem has already contributed - and will continue to contribute - to proposals intended to improve information transparency (**PRIORITY IV: *“Supply chain transparency: full patient information”***).

A number of actions can be implemented quickly to optimise the flow of medicines-related information when supply chain pressures become apparent:

- The TRACStocks monitoring tool could be extended to include all medicine distribution system stakeholders and ensure the effective management of available stocks.
- Optimisation and systematisation of the ‘DP Ruptures’ online tool would provide pharmacists with more accurate real-time information, which they could then use to guide patients more effectively towards available treatments.

Regarding the proper use of medicines (**PRIORITY II - *New public health initiatives to improve medicine availability***), Leem is working alongside healthcare professionals to identify solutions that will curb the excessive use of medicines, with particular focus on iatrogenesis and limiting polypharmacy.

In the longer term, pharmaceutical companies are very much on board with the Government's stated desire to strengthen France's manufacturing competitiveness, which is fully consistent with the ambitions set out in the Healthcare 2030 Innovation Plan, and are ready to work with the authorities on measures to reshore production of certain critical medicines on French soil (**PRIORITY III: *New economic initiatives to improve the availability of medicines***).

As part of this drive to improve the nation's ability to attract inward investment, the prices of critical mature products (which are 20 to 30% lower on average in France than in other leading European countries, such as Germany, Italy,

Spain and the UK) will have to be raised. We now need to ensure that our pharmaceutical companies have the resources they need to deliver all the transitions on the horizon, whether industrial, ecological or digital.

At a time when Leem is preparing to reopen discussions with CEPS (the Economic Committee for Health Products) over the new framework agreement that will define the economic conditions applicable to medicines in France, it is vital that we follow the recommendations of the report published by the expert panel appointed to review the system for financing and regulating healthcare products and deliver a new deal.

All these measures will help to restore France's leadership in manufacturing, which we are keen to see within a strong Europe. It is for this reason that Leem warmly welcomes the stated intention to prepare a shared list of critical medicines at European level (cf. Critical Medicines Act<sup>1</sup>).

A strong pharmaceutical industry is essential for the ability to guarantee that everyone in France has access to the treatments they need.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> “The proposed Critical Medicines Act is envisioned as a comprehensive EU mechanism, presented in the form of a regulation, to actively support the production of APIs and finished medicines within the European Union. This mechanism would provide funding for research and development, infrastructure development and operating costs”