

Ms Roxane Feller
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Brussels,

Dear Ms Feller,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April to Vice-President Timmermans, in which you expressed concerns regarding the Commission's upcoming initiative on *Supplementary Protection Certificates* ('SPCs'). I am pleased to reply to you on behalf of the Commission.

Please rest reassured that the Commission is fully aware of the importance of an effective IPR protection for the pharmaceutical industry (including the veterinary sector). This is demonstrated by the quality of the related legislation currently in force and by the fact that the Commission is routinely negotiating with third countries in the perspective of strengthening their IPR legislative framework.

It should also be noted that the Commission does not intend to affect in any way the core objectives of the SPC regime, namely to provide SPC holders with the exclusive right to place their products on the EU market during the SPC term.

For your information, all of the documents you mentioned (including two studies and a report on our public consultation) are in the process of being finalised and will be published shortly on the Commission website.

Yours sincerely,

Elżbieta Bieńkowska