



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation

Brussels  
SANTE.DDG1.B.5 [REDACTED] 2020)6818266

Dear Sir, / Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2020 to President von der Leyen who has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Pharmaceutical Strategy's objective is to reinforce the EU's global position as a place where medicines are developed, manufactured and made available to patients. In so doing, it addresses long-standing challenges, many of which you mentioned in your letter.

The role of the off-patent medicines sector is crucial in achieving this objective and should be recognised as a factor towards increased access to affordable medicines. The increased uptake of generics, biosimilars and value added medicines by health systems, removing any barriers to their market entry and promoting competition are central considerations. In fact, all the priorities you mention in your letter are part of the thinking behind the strategy and its actions and the Commission intends to engage in an inclusive dialogue with stakeholders in order to find common solutions and make informed policy decisions in its implementation phase.

For this purpose the Commission will use existing structures, e.g. the Health Policy Platform, the Safe and Timely Access to Medicines for Patients expert group, the Pharmaceutical Committee (extendable to stakeholders) and other fora.

The publication of the strategy is not the end, rather the beginning of the work. We count on your support and cooperation on delivering on these ambitious objectives and look forward to working with all stakeholders on this.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

