

From: [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Sent: jeudi 16 juillet 2020 11:44
To: [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Cc: SANTE CONSULT-B5; [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Subject: TC Meeting with Europabio 16 July 2020

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Participants:

Europabio:

[REDACTED] (Healthcare Biotech [REDACTED] Gilead biosciences)

Commission DG SANTE:

Ms. S. Gallina (DDG I), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] presented Europabio and in particular its healthcare sector which comprise more than 40 companies ranging from small biotech to big pharma companies. He also reminded that in some sectors like cancer treatments, innovation comes for more than 70% from small biotech companies.

[REDACTED] briefly presented the paper "Unleashing the full potential of life sciences and biotechnology in Europe" which was developed by Europabio members at the beginning of 2020 to propose concrete recommendations to policy makers in order to keep the biotech sector in Europe competitive. The paper has been drafted before the Covid19 crisis but the challenges which we have seen during the crisis are not new and already existed. To name a few, the low number of clinical trials conducted in the EU, the complexity of datasharing and digitalisation in the EU, problems concerning shortages and treatment continuity of patients, insufficient diagnostic and prevention, problems to have in Europe innovative manufacturing. Europabio is working actively with the Commission and EMA on several of these issues.

Europabio is in contact with EMA on how to best supports to SMEs and on regulatory flexibility, works with patients to ensure patient empowerment and is part of the EU Health Coalition.

Ms Gallina recalled the fact that EU SMEs are often bought by US or even Chinese companies. She asked what can be done concretely to help the European biotech sector. Which are the main threats and which objectives can be set for quick actions/solutions.

██████████ indicated that Europe has a problem to attract companies due to the lack of culture of venture capital, the lower risk predisposition of investors, the uncertainty to generate an appropriate return on investment and the lack of a fertile environment biotech which can attract qualified staff. He indicated that despite BREXIT, strong link with the UK, where 30% of European biotech are located, will be essential.

Europabio is following closely all the ongoing Commissions initiatives and in particular the Pharma strategy and the IP strategy, ██████████ expressed hope that these initiatives can constitute an opportunity for the European biotech sector more than a threat.

It was agreed to follow up the discussion in a new meeting.