Dear all,

Please find below the report from the joint meeting with EFPIA and MfE on COVID-19 lessons learnt and pharmaceutical strategy.

With many thanks to and for reporting.

Kind regards,

CAB joint meeting with EFPIA and MfE on COVID-19 lessons learnt and pharmaceutical strategy 22 October 2020

Participants

CAB- Giorgios Rossides, (CAB), SANTE- 

EFPIA – (Vaccines Europe) 

MfE: 

- Noted that focus should first be on supporting and maintaining existing manufacturing capacity in Europe, not only for API but finished products too; during the pandemic industry managed to effectively increase production
- Commented that collaboration with EMA is good but asked for more transparency and share of information from Member States about demand
- Called for MS to put in place the appropriate digital-telematics infrastructure to link regulatory and supply chain data for all medicines to have an overview of the entire value-chain, to better match demand / supply and react faster in case of potential supply disruption);

EFPIA:

- commented that the pharmaceutical strategy should not be limited only to access, availability and affordability but it should also address innovation
- welcomed a BARDA-type initiative that can help create an innovation ecosystem and also support development of antibiotics and combat AMR
- AMR is a continuous threat to public health and a new model is needed. Reminded that industry has mobilised 1 billion € to support late stage research for new antibiotics.
Asked this effort should be matched with policy initiatives and new incentives are needed combined with prudent use.

- Noted that Public Private Collaboration mechanisms are important with participation of academia, patient organisation and SMEs.
- Vaccines Europe welcomed a BARDA-type initiative and asked for the issue of liability to be addressed. Commented also on the late demand forecasting of the member states as regards flu vaccines and noted that for manufacturing to meet demand early forecasting is essential.

Giorgos Rossides:

- presented the main elements of the forthcoming Health Union package (Communication, 3 legislative proposals), reinforcement of EMA building on agile structures which were mobilised during the pandemic
- highlighted that the reflection on a European BARDA-type agency is still at early stages and an impact assessment will be carried out before a proposal is made. Foresight, horizon scanning and joint procurement are elements to be considered. Liability though is an issue on which is not easy to compromise.
- Highlighted that the pharmaceutical strategy is one of the Commissioner Kyriakides mission letter priorities with focus on access, availability and affordability but also competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical industry to remain a global leader. Security of supply is one of the focus areas as well. Digitalisation and regulatory efficiency will be important elements of the strategy as well.
- Stressed that AMR is another priority for Commissioner Kyriakides and the Commission will work in an inclusive way with MS, industry and other stakeholders to find solutions as part of the pharmaceutical strategy