Press Release

European patients need improved access to biosimilar medicines

For Immediate Release

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Fifteen years after the first global approval, biosimilar medicines systemically increase access to medicines for patients who need them, while contributing to the sustainability of our healthcare systems.

We are at a unique moment for pharmaceutical policy, given the ongoing pressure from COVID-19 and the upcoming opportunities to build healthcare efficiency presented by the European Commission Pharmaceutical Strategy.

Biosimilar medicines have always been a strong asset to offer equitable access to treatment for chronic disease patients including those with cancer. Smart policies that expand biosimilar medicines use have led to efficient outcomes for patients, healthcare professionals and healthcare systems. To deliver their full potential, biosimilar medicines need:

- The right market conditions and incentives
- A fit-for-purpose regulatory environment, tailored to their specificities
- To be part of standard patient care.

Isabell Remus, Chair of the **Biosimilar Medicines sector group**, commented *"COVID-19 will have a lasting impact on national health systems in Europe and their recovery will be absolutely crucial for all patients. For 15 years, biosimilar medicines provide an effective solution to balance patient access and healthcare sustainability. There are many more opportunities ahead for biosimilar medicines. Their smart use must be facilitated in practice but also in policies, like recognised in the EU Pharmaceutical Strategy and the EU Beating Cancer Plan."*

Note

These issues will be discussed in greater detail with experts from the healthcare community during the 2021 Virtual Summit on Biosimilar medicines. A series of live webinars can be attended free of charge, upon registration here. As part of the summit, the online web platform can be accessed here, with key stakeholder interviews and background documents.

The Biosimilar Medicines Group

The **Biosimilar Medicines Group** is a sector group of **Medicines for Europe** representing the leading companies developing, manufacturing and/or marketing biosimilar medicines across Europe. With more than 10 years of positive patient treatment experience and 20 products successfully launched, biosimilar medicines provide today a huge opportunity to deliver significantly improved access to modern therapies for millions of European patients in both chronic and acute care. Our members bring competition to the biological medicines market, thereby increasing access to highly innovative treatments to patients, in Europe and around the world, and supporting the sustainability of the European healthcare systems.

About Medicines for Europe

Medicines for Europe represents the generic, biosimilar and value added medicines industries across Europe. Its vision is to provide sustainable access to high quality medicines, based on 5 important pillars: patients, quality, value, sustainability and partnership. Its members directly employ 190,000 people at over 400 manufacturing and 126 R&D sites in Europe, and invest up to 17% of their turnover in R&D investment. Medicines for Europe member companies across Europe are both increasing access to medicines and driving improved health outcomes. They play a key role in creating sustainable European healthcare systems by continuing to provide high quality, effective generic medicines, whilst also innovating to create new biosimilar medicines and bringing to market value added medicines, which deliver better health outcomes, greater efficiency and/or improved safety in the hospital setting for patients. For more information please follow us at www.medicinesforeurope.com and on Twitter @medicinesforEU.