

Innovative biotech industry can support Europe's health resilience and autonomy

NEWS RELEASE

Brussels, 24 October 2023 - EuropaBio, the leading voice for the biotechnology industry in Europe, welcomes the adoption of a Commission Communication on shortages of medicines. The ever-evolving global landscape and experience from the COVID-19 pandemic show the need for a comprehensive strategy for Europe to become more resilient and autonomous for its healthcare needs.

The actions outlined in the Communication are welcomed but it is critical that EU actions in this regard are not limited to essential medicines but aim to address Europe's growing dependency on third countries for innovation medicines. Beyond immediate actions for the upcoming months, mid- to long-term EU actions on shortages must be part of a true European industrial strategy and understood as a strategic investment in our future.

Dr. Claire Skentelbery, Director-General of EuropaBio said: *"Securing the supply of essential medicines is important but Europe's strategic autonomy and resilience hinge on its ability to reposition itself as a global leader in healthcare innovation. The biotech and biomanufacturing ecosystems are key partners for resilience and autonomy but they need enabling policies and decisions from European policymakers."*

The entire biotech industry is an essential partner to enhance the EU's strategic autonomy, including in healthcare. The intricate processes involved in the manufacturing biological medicines, APIs, and intermediate ingredients require cutting-edge technologies that Europe can lead on. As biologics continue to represent a growing share of the global pipeline, Europe should harness the potential of biotech to deliver a resilient, competitive, and sustainable EU by supporting healthcare biotech and biomanufacturing in Europe and collaborating with global partners to strengthen supply chains.

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About EuropaBio

EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, promotes an innovative and dynamic European biotechnology industry. EuropaBio and its members are committed to the socially responsible use of biotechnology to improve quality of life; to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure diseases; to improve the quality and quantity of food and feedstuffs and to move towards a biobased and zero-waste economy. EuropaBio represents corporate and associate members, plus national biotechnology associations and bioregions. Read more about our work at www.europabio.org.