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EUROPEAN DOCTORS CALL FOR RESTORING BALANCE IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

With the Pharmaceutical Strategy, the European Commission sets the right course of action towards ensuring patients' access to affordable medicines. When implementing it, European doctors can bring valuable knowledge and experience to the discussion on how to reform the EU pharmaceutical sector to better serve patients and populations.

CPME Vice President Dr Christiaan Keijzer

On 20 March 2021, the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) adopted its **Position on the European Commission Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe**.

If truly person-centred, the European Commission should take the opportunity to reshape the health innovation system and challenge the current status quo. European Doctors recommend rethinking the incentive system based on intellectual property rights and exploring alternative models that encourage the development of relevant health technologies. Amongst various options, de-linkage models seem likely to stimulate innovation most effectively.

Moreover, the European Commission should take concrete measures to increase access to medicines. In this regard, granting a centralised marketing authorisation should lead to the launch of such medicines in all EU countries at the same time. Furthermore, to improve medicines' affordability, all forms of public investment in the R&D process should be made conditional on concrete commitments. Transparency on net unit prices should be enhanced.

The European Commission should address the current shortcomings of the biopharmaceutical R&D system. The new authority dealing with health emergency preparedness and response needs to be transparent and publicly governed. This would ensure that the objective of increasing health security takes precedence over any economic interest. It can also define a fair sharing of risks and rewards from the outset.

Finally, European doctors believe that “a strong EU voice in the world” should “speak” by example. When working with third country partners, the EU should seek true global solidarity and promote high standards of governance.

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The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

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