

Opening remarks

Honorable Members of the European Parliament, Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the launch of our structured dialogue on the resilience of the supply chains for medicines.

The COVID crisis has opened our eyes to the importance of the resilience of supply chains. But, as we know, this problem is not new, nor will it disappear with the pandemic.

We need to structurally address the security of supply chains for essential medicines, raw materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients needed for producing them.

The issue of pharmaceutical supply has a broader impact on the strategic autonomy of the European Union. And, here, let me stress that the stake is twofold:

It is about how to do more in the European Union, to have the appropriate industrial capacity we need to avoid shortages in the future.

But we must also think about how to do better with our external partners and ensure resilient and sufficiently diversified supply chains.

As I said, this health crisis will certainly not be the last, and we must be sufficiently prepared.

This process can not be Brussels talking to Brussels. On the contrary, we need your knowledge and expertise to better understand the vulnerabilities and dependencies that create strategic risks for critical supply in the EU on the ground.

Our discussion today is not a one off meeting. We are starting a process to map the situation. This will create a solid factual base that will underpin future proposals to address the identified weaknesses and ensure a more resilient European Health Union.

I count on your active engagement and valuable expertise to make this process a success.

I wish you a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.