

Good afternoon, everyone,

If we want a Europe leader in health care for our citizens, and attractive for pharmaceutical investment, we need to dialogue and work together to identify problems and find solutions: we should therefore congratulate ourselves for this Structured Dialogue in which we are all engaged.

Europe leads the world in research and clinical trials, but we are lagging behind in drug development and production, not only because of a decrease in the number of pharmaceutical laboratories involved, but also due to a lack of manufacture supplying companies.

We have not yet succeeded in having a real European early warning system, to enable us to know and act in advance of potential drug supply problems.

We need a European information network, to take preventive measures, avoiding shortages and stock-outs of medicines and respond effectively to emergencies.

We are in fierce competition between off-patent medicines that are essential for our population, negotiating for cents on low-priced medicines such as paracetamol or amoxicillin. And it is clear to everyone that this creates a disincentive for companies to maintain this market for essential medicines, or to invest in incremental innovation, causing large-scale production to be delocalised, and making us dependent on third countries.

The New European Pharmaceutical Strategy proposed by the Commission, and now under evaluation in Parliament, represents a great opportunity to put the patient at the centre of our policies and to attract and consolidate a competitive and diversified pharmaceutical industry in Europe with:

- a less bureaucratic and more efficient regulatory framework, without sacrificing security;
- market policies that facilitate the implementation of new scientific, technological and digital developments;

- a new incentive system for:

1. Multiplying production capacities in Europe
2. Creating a competitive ecosystem of manufacture supplying companies
3. Maintaining the attractiveness of marketing essential medicines
4. Covering unmet therapeutic needs

In short, we all together, patients, scientists, industry and the public sector, should be the driving force behind this Union of Health, to which we all aspire, to make longevity a health achievement, diseases a problem to be defeated, access to innovation a solution to the problem, and in balance with the sustainability of the system, offer our citizens new and confident expectations for a better health, while letting Europe lead the World in health care.

Thank you,
Dolors Montserrat