

26 FEBRUARY 2021

### **OPENING REMARKS**

- Honourable Members of the European Parliament, Minister, ladies and gentlemen.
- I am delighted to welcome you at today's event to launch the structured dialogue of the pharmaceutical value chain.
- This is important political initiative under the Pharmaceutical Strategy as its main objective is to **ensure that medicines are available to patients in need, and at all times**, in times of crisis and in times of peace.
- Access and shortages of medicine had been a structural challenge for far too long.
- The pandemic exacerbated this problem even further and put unprecedented pressure on our health and pharmaceutical systems.
- Now, it is time to address it. To do so, we need to work together. In trust and in partnership.
- Public authorities and industry work towards the same purpose. To make our pharma supply chains more resilient.
- You can bring invaluable insight, expertise and perspective. You can help us understand the functioning of the pharmaceutical supply chain, identify its vulnerabilities, gather the necessary knowledge and data.
- Through this knowledge, we can propose concrete solutions to ensure the security of supply of critical medicines in the EU and reinforce the resilience of our health systems.
- Success here depends on cooperation and commitment of all of us. I count on your active engagement and your investment

in the structured dialogue process, by providing your sector's expertise, collecting and sharing data and information to build the evidence for future actions.

- We are determined to bring positive change and to correct market failures. We want to bring this change together.
- Today's event is just the first but important step in a project that will be implemented over the following months.
- It is a project in which you have an important role to play, and I look forward to working with you in a trustful partnership. I am sure that working together will we be able to deliver.

**Ends**

**272 words**