Federal Ministry
of Health

MINISTÈRE
DE LA SANTÉ, DES FAMILLES,
DE L'AUTONOMIE
ET DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES

Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Pharmaceutical Industry in Europe between the Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Health, Families, Autonomy and Persons with Disabilities of the French Republic

With approximately 520 million inhabitants in the EU and EEA and boasting almost universal health coverage, Europe is a significant market – around 25 percent of global pharmaceutical sales are realised in Europe. Nevertheless, the European medicinal products market is increasingly at risk of losing its attractiveness and competitiveness not only due to more stringent horizontal requirements (including occupational health and safety requirements, environmental regulations etc.) but also due to heightened competition from third countries such as India and China, as well as waves of offshoring that have weakened our industrial sovereignty. In addition, the current geopolitical tensions, translated into economic measures by certain countries—such as the United States' Most Favoured Nation (MFN) policy—could have the potential to impact our access to innovative medicines and undermine our exports.

In the interest of resilience, it is therefore essential to implement both structural and immediate measures to safeguard the pharmaceutical industry, including its upstream value chains. To accomplish this, the objectives of security of supply and location, economic power and innovative prowess as well as environmental protection need to be adjusted and mutually balanced.
The answer to these challenges must be a common European and step-wise one:

- In the short term, incentive-based tools to secure access to the European market.
- In the long term, support for ongoing structural reforms—such as those already proposed (e.g., the Pharmaceutical Package) or under development (e.g., the Biotech Act, Critical Medicines Act)—to restore attractiveness and resilience.

That is why we jointly endeavour to strengthen the security of supply and location, competitiveness and innovative prowess in the EU's pharmaceutical sector. Germany and France share a history of fruitful cooperation in the field of medicinal products. This history must be continued to make a concerted contribution towards strengthening Europe's health sector and to regain greater resilience in the supply of medicinal products.

We need to send a clear signal to the pharmaceutical industry that Europe is and will remain an attractive investment location for the long term. We are jointly striving towards this goal.

In this context, we welcome the activities at EU level, specifically the revision of Regulation (EC) No 469/2009 concerning the supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products, as well as the ongoing finalisation of the Pharmaceutical Package and the work on the Biotech Act and the Critical Medicines Act (CMA).
From our perspective, important areas of action are the following:

1. **Strengthening the EU as a location for clinical research**

The aim here is to raise the number of clinical trials conducted in the EU. Improved authorisation processes which uphold the high safety standards necessary while allowing for faster procedures, as well as harmonised legal frameworks, are essential in this context. This will stimulate innovation and afford patients early access to novel innovative treatment options.

2. **Easing the market launch of new medicinal products by harmonising the benefit assessment**

A binding European assessment and stronger institutional coordination will ease the launch of new treatments, reduce bureaucracy and boost the attractiveness of the market.

3. **Strengthening security of supply and the industrial base**

Incentivising European-based production and accelerating processes boost the attractiveness of Europe as a pharmaceutical location. In particular, geopolitical challenges and critical dependencies on individual third countries in the pharmaceutical sector call for determined joint European action. In light of this, Germany and France explicitly support the CMA's goal of making the supply of medicinal products in the EU more resilient.

4. **Balancing environmental regulation with safeguarding attractiveness for pharmaceutical companies**

Overall, a fine balance has to be struck between environmental regulation and safeguarding the pharmaceutical location. With regard to the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD), we therefore advocate well-balanced solutions in the interests of the security of supply of medicinal products, locational attractiveness as well as environmental protection.

5. **Improving the protection of intellectual property**

The aim is to establish a uniform, efficient and investment-friendly framework to protect innovation in the field of medicinal products (SPCs). We are ready to bring the negotiations on the proposals for the uniform supplementary protection certificates to a timely conclusion.

6. **Addressing global tensions: immediate measures**

In the context of evolving global dynamics and the fragmentation of market access procedures, we strengthen our bilateral cooperation by establishing a binational ministerial working group with the goal of addressing the risk of non-availability of innovative medicines. thereby facilitating market access for innovative products and improve the attractiveness of the European pharmaceutical landscape.

We are committed to achieving these goals and determined to act swiftly in an effort to strengthen the pharmaceutical industry as a leading industry in Europe.

Signed in Geneva, on May 18th 2026 in duplicate, in the English language.

For the Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany	For the Ministry of Health, Families, Independence, and People with Disabilities of the French Republic
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