|  |
| --- |
| **EU-LAC High-level Pharmaceutical Forum: Sharing pharmaceutical innovations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean**  21st of March, 15.00 to 19.30  Brussels, Berlaymont building, Schuman room  *Hybrid format* |

**EU-LAC High-level Pharma Forum**

A high-level forum entitled “Sharing pharmaceutical innovations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean” will be held on 21 March 2023 in Brussels and on a hybrid format. It will hear from public and private sector representatives who will discuss the challenges the region faces and how these will be addressed, and help identify new opportunities that will emerge for closer collaboration between EU and LAC.

The objective of the forum is to gather political leaders and technical experts in order to describe the current pharmaceuticals access situation and answer questions on how to collaborate and improve access to quality, safe, effective and affordable pharmaceutical innovations – including therapeutics vaccines, generics and biosimilars, particularly related to LAC-Europe markets.

**Context**

The LAC region has a relatively strong pharmaceutical industry with over two thousand companies across the 33 member states. However, the region is reliant on imports for 70% of its pharmaceutical needs and has a trade deficit of $20bn for the pharmaceutical sector. Manufacturing in most countries is focused on the domestic market with limited intraregional trade, estimated to be $5bn in 2020.

The concentration of R&D and manufacturing capabilities in the Global North, India and China was a factor that contributed to vaccine inequity and has prompted renewed efforts to diversify pharmaceutical industry capabilities.

Over and above the challenges of the pandemic, the LAC region faced a number of pressing health crises not least due to the aging population and increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases. In 2020 there were 58 million people in the region aged over 65 and 45% of deaths were caused by either cardiovascular disorders or cancer.

The chronic nature of many Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the emergence of relatively new often biological products places significant burden on healthcare systems and on individuals who often cover medical costs from out-of-pocket expenditure. Whilst R&D based multinational companies have a strong presence (e.g. accounting for 30% of the market by value in Mexico and 55% in Argentina), the region has a relatively advanced generic and biosimilar segment, with for example 52 biosimilars approved in Argentina and 60% of LAC biosimilars manufactured by domestic manufacturers.

There has been substantial investment and government incentives to promote life science related R&D. There are over 100,000 pharmaceutical researchers in the region and a growing Biotech sector (e.g. 62 Biotech companies in Mexico). Biodiversity has potential for naturally sourced novel products and is a particular focus of research in Brazil, Colombia and Peru. However, according to ECLAC, the sector is characterised by (with a few exceptions) little development and low levels of technological sophistication.

# In 2021, the European Commission and the EU High Representative have set out the Global Gateway, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. Between 2021 and 2027, the EU institutions and EU Member States jointly, will mobilise up to €300 billion of investments including on improving health systems together with its partners around the world.

**EU-LAC partnership on health**

Development of the pharmaceutical industry has been identified as a priority by the region. The importance of the healthcare sector was also recognised by the ECLAC in September 2021. This plan seeks to, inter alia, strengthen this sector, increase intraregional trade. It identifies seven lines of action:

* strengthen mechanisms for pooled international procurement of vaccines and essential medicines,
* use public procurement mechanisms for medicines to develop regional markets,
* create consortiums for the development and production of vaccines,
* implement a regional clinical trials platform,
* strengthen regulatory convergence and recognition mechanisms,
* strengthen primary health systems for equitable distribution of vaccines and universal access to them.

# With the new EU – LAC partnership on local manufacturing of vaccines, medicines and other health technologies, and strengthening health systems resilience launched at the European Development Days by President von der Leyen last June, the EU has repeated its commitment to support ongoing regional efforts to strengthen capacities to produce and distribute vaccine and medicines in the LAC region.

As already discussed at the EU-LAC leaders meeting in December 2021, diversification of global pharmaceutical production is essential for global health security and the EU is keen to contribute to the LAC success of pharmaceutical, biotech and medtech industries. An operational roadmap has been elaborated containing six areas for engagement or building blocks:

* private sector engagement to strengthen the region’s vaccine manufacturing capacity,
* improved regional supply chains, trade integration and business environment,
* regulatory strengthening,
* demand consolidation and pooled procurement,
* scientific cooperation,
* pandemic preparedness and health security.

**On-line pharma Marketplace**

The **EU-LAC High Level Pharma Forum** is part of a broader series of events taking place from February until the beginning of April 2023.

The pandemic has demonstrated the strategic importance of the pharmaceutical industry and the critical role played by private sector networks in developing and supplying novel and established medicines. In February the European Commission launched an on-line **EU-Latin America and Caribbean pharma and healthcare marketplace** where medicines manufacturers, contract manufacturing organisations, suppliers of raw material and manufacturing facilitators, trade associations and financial institutions from both regions have the opportunity to meet to strengthen their collaboration and find adequate partners to build projects together.

Taking full advantage of the EU Global Gateway strategy to prioritise the security of supply chains and the development of local manufacturing capacities, the EU proposes working concretely with LAC countries to diversify their pharmaceutical supply chains whilst also contributing to address international supply chain bottlenecks. Building on that, industry stakeholders are invited to identify avenues for cooperation, including for industrial production aspects.

**Setting of the EU-LAC High Level Pharma Forum**

Three panels are proposed on three themes of importance to foster pharmaceutical innovation and production: public policies, private sector and financing. Guiding questions for each panel will be provided at a later stage and will be followed by a Q&A and short outcomes of the panels.

**Panel 1:** **EU-LAC Health priorities**, **ambition,** **programmes and enabling environment**

**Panel 2: Private sector and pharmaceutical innovations across LAC and EU**

**Panel 3: Financing opportunities**

**Agenda**

The proposed programme for the event is as follows:

Moderator: Mario Cimoli, Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Economics , Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **14:30** | **Registration opens** |
| **15:00**  **(30’max)** | **Welcoming remarks / Opening session**   * Jutta Urpilainen, International Partnerships Commissioner, European Commission * Swedish Presidency - tbc * St Vincent & Grenadines CELAC presidency **-** tbc |
| **15:30**  **(1h15)** | **Panel 1: EU-LAC Health priorities, ambition, programmes and enabling environment**  ***Objective: through this policy-based panel provide an overview of EU and LAC ambition and programmes on access to health products and enabling environment programs included the health roadmap and its 7 pillars*** Moderation: Mario Cimoli*Political statement*   * Mia Motley, Prime minister of Barbados (via recorded message) * Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships - online tbc * Borja Cabezón, Spanish Ambassador for Global Health   *Panel*   * José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC - tbc * Dr. Jabras Barbosa PAHO´s Director (pre recorded video message) * Paula Bogantes Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications, Costa Rica (online) * Nisia Veronica Trindade Lima, Minister of Health of Brazil (online) - tbc * Myriam Ferran, DDG INTPA, European Commission * Ms Signe Ratso, Deputy Director General RTD, European Commission |
| **16:45**  **(30min)** | **Coffee Break** |
| **17:15 CEST**  **(1h)** | **Panel 2: Pharmaceutical innovations across LAC and EU**  ***Objective: provide a state of play of LAC-UE pharmaceutical companies' engagement on access to health products. EU and LAC companies and associations would present example of collaboration and challenges on access to health products.***  Moderation: Anais Lecorvec, Bioregions clusters CEO   * Rafael Sánchez Cárdenas, Vice Minister for Public Health Dominican Republic * Yaneth Giha, Directorate General FIFARMA (online) * Aurelio Krieger Vice President for production, health and innovation Aurelio Krieger of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) * Sanofi – tbc * Nathalie Moll, Directorate General EIFPIA * César Luena, MEP, Vice-Chair Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety * Higher Management of Directorate General GROW European Commission – tbc |
| **18:15**  **(1h)** | **Panel 3: Financing opportunities**  ***Objective: provide an overview of challenges & financing opportunities for collaboration***  Moderation: Erica Gerretsen, Director G INTPA   * Mr. Leslie Ramsammy, former Minister of Health from Guyana * Adriana Mira, vice minister of Foreign Relations, El Salvador, tbc * Ilan Goldfajn, President IADB – tbc * Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice President, EIB * Julia Perié, Eurolat member, Sustainable Development Committee * Remy Rioux - AFD CEO – tbc * Carolina Snachez, Lead Life Sciences Sector CINDE |
| **19:15**  **(15 min)** | **Closing remarks**   * Commissioner Breton (video) * Javier Nino Perez, Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service * Martha Delgado, Undersecretary at MFA Mexico – tbc (online) |
| **19:30** | **End of event & Networking event** |