

STATEMENT OF MEDICINES FOR EUROPE ON THE OCCASION OF THE EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY 2018

Medicines for Europe and its members are committed to actions to help tackle AMR and avoid the post-antibiotic era.

Our actions include:

First of all, ensuring the efficacy of existing antibiotics. The generic medicines industry currently supplies around 70% of antibiotics in Europe. Antibiotics are a medical marvel in combatting bacterial infections, and it is imperative to ensure that existing antibiotics continue to work to patients who rely on them. This involves raising awareness that antibiotics should only be taken when a medical professional prescribes them.

Secondly, we work to ensure that medical professionals are able to prescribe the optimal antibiotic treatment to patients who need them. To be able to do so, they need to have a wide variety of antibiotics to choose from. A sustainable generic manufacturing policy should be in place in Europe so we can continue to produce the wide range of antibiotics needed to combat bacterial infections. This requires a rethink of the market policies for antibiotics to encourage multiple manufacturers to supply Europe. Current policies are leading to a concentration of supply with associated shortage risks.

Thirdly, Medicines for Europe has joined forces with other industry partners as part of the global AMR industry alliance, with the objective of pooling resources to effectively combat AMR. All partners of the alliance commit to deliver on specific actions to help curb the rise of AMR. Medicines for Europe and its members will continue to be engaged in the antimicrobial resistance policy debate, including the European Antibiotic Awareness day, and will actively support efforts to ensure that European patients receive access to effective antimicrobial treatments.