

Meeting with EFPIA – 17 November 2020

Participants:

- EFPIA: [redacted] [Art. 4.1 (b)] [redacted]
- COM: Cabinet Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis, TRADE A.2, B.3, E.3.

The meeting took place at request of EFPIA, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. EFPIA emphasised the importance of free and open trade for the EU pharmaceuticals industry, notably in the context of COVID-19, recalled the importance of safeguarding IPR for its industry, expressed interest in further EU-US regulatory cooperation while sharing concerns on the recent US Executive Order on essential medicines.

On trade and COVID-19: EFPIA stressed that industry first priority has been to ensure the continued supply of high quality innovative medicines while undertaking research and development for therapeutic solutions to combat COVID-19. EFPIA underlined the essential role played by R&D for the discovery and development of innovative medicines, underlining industry’s high level of R&D investments in the EU. It stressed the importance of openness and free trade to support the robustness of supply chains while underlining the importance of fact-based analysis on aspects of resilience of supply chains.

On IPR: EFPIA recalled the importance of upholding solid IP disciplines in EU FTAs and its enforcement to appropriately support and reward innovation. It underlined that any attempt to curtail IP protection would be detrimental on investments for the development of future innovative medicines. EFPIA informed it has commissioned a study on the impact of IP provision on the economy.

On EU-US relations: EFPIA expressed support to a positive agenda with the US on regulatory cooperation. It stressed the benefits of the EU-US MRA on good manufacturing practices contributing to facilitating access and supply of innovative medicines, indicated industry’s interest in expanding its scope (vaccines) and mentioned industry’s interest for an MRA on Global Clinical Practice. Given the integrated nature of the pharmaceutical industry on both sides of the Atlantic, EFPIA expressed its satisfaction that medicines are not included in EU countermeasures in the context of the civil aircraft dispute. As regards the US Executive Order on essential medicines, EFPIA shared the views that mandatory local manufacturing and protectionism is not an answer to address the current or potential next pandemic. They informed working with their counterparts in the US to understand better the situation.

[Art. 4.1 (b)] TRADE E3 [Art. 4.1 (b)] [Art. 4.1 (b)] TRADE B3 [Art. 4.1 (b)] [redacted]

[Art. 4.1 (b)] TRADE A2 [Art. 4.1 (b)]

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