



INVITATION

(for Kangaroo Group Members and Guests)

VIRTUAL– DEBATE

Wednesday, **3 February 2021** from 12:30 to 14:00 hrs

“ Ensuring a robust and secure supply chain of pharmaceuticals in Europe ”

*Recognizing the importance of the issue of shortages, the **European Parliament** adopted an own initiative report in September 2020. Although the text is generally positive, there is mixed language on matters such as intellectual property, showcasing misunderstandings that exist because of the complexity of the problem. At the same time, the European Commission is currently working on a study on the root causes of shortages, which is expected to be published in early 2022.*

*The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the extreme **importance of robust supply chains** and ability to supply medicines. This is proof that the medicines supply eco-system is complex. Therefore, addressing the issue of shortages requires broad stakeholder coordination. Any root cause analysis should include medicines traceability throughout the eco-system; liability should be spread with all actors in the system; a manufacturing friendly environment, including favourable trade policies, will be paramount to ensure sustainable supply chains and ultimately secure the supply of medicines.*

*Although very precise on other points, the **Pharmaceutical Strategy** does not give clear guidance on how the Commission plans to tackle the issue of shortages. Therefore, it is crucial to discuss how shortages could be diminished by keeping a Europe that remains competitive. For that to be reached, the Commission needs to ensure that the EU provides a supportive framework that powers innovation and attracts R&D investments as well as enabling fast access to innovative medicines for as many patients as possible.*

Welcome and Chair:

Michael GAHLER MEP, President of the Kangaroo Group

Speakers:

Jan HUITEMA MEP, Renew Europe Group/Netherlands, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Sylvain GIRAUD, Head of Unit, Unit B4-Medical Products, DG Santé,

John DRUMMOND, Head of Division, Trade in Services, Directorate for Trade and Agriculture, OECD

Elke GROOTEN, Head EU Relations, Novartis Group

This debate will be conducted via Zoom and hosted by the Kangaroo Group

Please reply to the Kangaroo Group’s Brussels office, whether you will attend or not
by e-mail: office@kangaroogroup.eu

Name: Email:

Organisation + Title:

Yes, I will attend

No, I will not attend