

Spanish Prime Minister and Top Representatives of the Pharmaceutical Industry at Global and National Level Lay the Foundations for a Strategic Plan for the Sector

The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and the Ministers of Health, Industry and Science empathise that the strategic nature of the sector prompted its inclusion in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, approved in May 2021, and the commitment to developing a Strategic Plan for the Pharmaceutical Industry in Spain.

A public-private collaboration framework, a robust innovation ecosystem and sustained investment in healthcare that allows rapid and equitable access to new treatments are the pillars agreed upon for the development of the sector.

The pharmaceutical industry announces investments of more than 8 billion euros in Spain over the next three years to boost biomedical research, digitalisation, and strategic production of medicines. Moreover, a plan for equal-opportunity and youth employment play will be implemented which will involve the hiring of at least 4,500 young people per year.

Support for the competitiveness of the pharmaceutical industry will be included among the priorities of the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council in 2023.

Madrid, 21 December 2020. – The Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, and the Ministers of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Reyes Maroto; Health, Carolina Darias; and Science and Innovation, Diana Morant, held a meeting this Wednesday with over twenty presidents and top executives of pharmaceutical companies at global and national level, as well as with representatives of the sector's trade associations, with the objective of laying the foundations for a Strategic Plan to promote the development of the innovative pharmaceutical industry in Spain.

The Government and industry both agree to take steps to foster public-private collaboration frameworks, consolidate a robust innovation ecosystem with strong national and European industrial capabilities and resilient medicine supply chains, as well as a sustainable investment in healthcare that enables rapid and equitable patient access to new medicines.

The Prime Minister stressed that the strategic nature of the sector prompted its inclusion in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, approved in May 2021, and the commitment to developing a Strategic Plan for the Pharmaceutical Industry in Spain.

Pedro Sánchez also announced the immediate establishment of a government-industry Working Group to start the elaboration of the Strategic Plan and an ongoing structured dialogue for the definition of lines of action during the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council in the second semester of 2023, with the objective of promoting competitiveness of the pharmaceutical industry.

This high-level meeting has laid the foundations for the future 2023-2025 Strategic Plan for the Pharmaceutical Industry in Spain, which includes the pharmaceutical industry's objective of investing more than 8 billion euros in Spain over the next three years. Biomedical research will

account for over half of this investment effort, with 4.3 billion euros, to consolidate Spain's leadership in clinical trials and to boost translational and preclinical research.

The second area of investment corresponds to productive, digital, and environmental investments, with 2.7 billion euros over three years, which will enable Spain to gain strategic autonomy and resilience in the medicine supply chain, modernise production processes and foster environmental sustainability and the circular economy.

The third area, endowed with 1 billion euros, refers to global activities of technological or strategic content, which means the creation or strengthening of global corporate service centres, centres for technological excellence, and technical, logistic, or scientific support centres of pharmaceutical companies.

Finally, the sectoral commitment includes a youth-employment and gender-equality plan, which will involve the hiring of at least 4,500 young people per year, providing stable professional careers, state-of-the-art training and facilities, and competitive salaries. It will also strive to bridge the gender pay gap, which is already the lowest in the national industry, and to develop leadership plans to help more women reach management positions – women already account for 45% of steering committees members in pharmaceutical companies in Spain.

A sector of high value for Spanish society

At this high-level meeting, the Spanish Prime Minister was able to learn first-hand why the innovative pharmaceutical industry represents a key strategic sector in Spain due to its contribution to welfare not only through medicines, but also through the generation of innovation and knowledge, the fundamental basis for growth and social welfare today.

On the one hand, this sector has driven leadership in research and development of new medicines and vaccines that are critical for healthcare. [In 2021, R&D investment in the pharmaceutical industry in Spain exceeded 1.267 billion euros](#), 9.2% more than the previous year 2020 and an all-time record for the sector.

[With over 103 production plants producing medicines for human use](#), - manufacturing at a value of 17.5 billion euros and directly employing 36,000 people, - Spain is one of the European countries with the greatest potential in this field due to the industrial weight of the sector in the national productive fabric and its leadership in productivity, R&D and high-tech exports.

Additionally, it is a sector that directly employs nearly 50,000 people (250,000 adding indirect and induced jobs), with 93% having permanent contracts, 64% being university graduates and 53% being women - figures that make it [stable, quality and egalitarian employment](#). Furthermore, it is a sector committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the environment: 70% of the energy consumed by the sector is of renewable origin and waste generation has been reduced by 15% in the last three years.

With a clear spill-over effect on other specialised supplier sectors, and each euro generated by the pharmaceutical industry in Spain represents between one and two euros of added value in other sectors.

On the road to health, economic and social recovery

"The pharmaceutical industry's investment in Spain is significant: it accounts for one out of every five euros in industrial R&D and medicines are the fourth-largest Spanish export. We are willing to sustain such investments in Spain and increase them, but a real industrial policy is needed for our sector with greater market opportunities and a continued commitment to investment in healthcare," highlights the president of Farmaindustria, Jesús Ponce.

"We appreciate the willingness of the Spanish Prime Minister and the ministries concerned in helping these objectives materialise, which are another step on the road towards recovery in Spain after the harsh health, economic and social impact of the pandemic. The leaders of the global and Spanish pharmaceutical industry have conveyed to this Government a proposal for a collaborative solution and the sector's firm commitment to our country. We are confident that the collaboration plan opened today between both parties will allow us to achieve our goal which is, in short, to improve the health and well-being of our society," stated Ponce.

In this sense, now is a unique time for Spain and Europe to reinforce their role as a global centre for R&D and production, ensuring the strategic nature and driving force of the pharmaceutical sector. In fact, during the meeting the opportunity to include the innovative pharmaceutical industry among the priorities of this mandate to promote a biomedical research ecosystem on the continent - based on the protection of intellectual property, and more resilient production and supply chains of medicines - offered by the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2023 to include was discussed.

To this end, a meeting between the ministers concerned and the industry will be held in early 2023 to begin work on these objectives. "We hope that the Spanish government can lead efforts that will appeal to other Member States to maintain incentives for innovation in this sector. Further progress is needed to enable Europe to regain its lost position as a benchmark in biomedical research in the international context and, therefore, new hope for patients and their families in the EU," recalls the president of Farmaindustria.

Meeting attendees

The high-level meeting, besides Government representatives, was attended by:

- Robert Alan Bradway, CEO, Amgen
- Claus Zieler, President Established Markets, Astellas Pharma
- Hubertus von Baumbach, EFPIA President and Chairman of the Board of Managing Directors, Boehringer Ingelheim
- Alessandro Chiesi, Chief Commercial Officer, Chiesi Farmaceutici
- Emma Walmsley, CEO, GSK
- David Loew, CEO, Ipsen
- Joaquín Duato, CEO and Director of the Board, Johnson & Johnson
- Christophe Bourdon, CEO, Leo Pharma
- Elcin Barker Ergun, CEO and Board Director, Menarini
- Belén Garijo, Chair of the Executive Board and CEO, Merck
- Joseph Romanelli, President, Human Health International, MSD
- Marie-France Tschudin, President Innovative Medicines and CCO, Novartis Pharmaceuticals

- Paul Hudson, CEO, Sanofi
- Jean Christophe Tellier, Chairman BCR & CEO UCB
- Carlos Gallardo, President and CEO, Almirall
- David Solanes, Director General, Laboratorios ERN
- Jordi Muntañola, CCO, Esteve
- Francisco Quintanilla, Director General, Faes Farma
- Mario Rovirosa, CEO, Ferrer
- Ignasi Biosca Reig, CEO, Reig Jofre
- Juan López-Belmonte, CEO, Rovi
- Nathalie Moll, Director General, EFPIA
- Thomas Cueni, Director General, IFPMA
- Jesús Ponce, President, Farmaindustria
- Javier Urzay, Deputy Director General, Farmaindustria

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