TTIP: the benefits for patients, healthcare, science and business

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) aims to **create more open trade** between the EU and the U.S. Strengthening the world's most important trading relationship can serve as a **key platform to bring quicker new treatment options to patients**. TTIP has the potential to facilitate the development of new medicines and improve health outcomes and support new long-term economic benefits.

Europe and the U.S. account for more than 75% of global R&D in life sciences and create and sustain over 1.5 million direct jobs.

How will TTIP benefit patients, science, healthcare systems, innovation, and the economy?

1 Increasing the efficiency of approving new medicines results in patients getting faster access to new treatments

While maintaining the existing high-level safety standards, TTIP can create greater compatibility between EU and U.S. regulatory environments. Patients thereby benefit from faster and more efficient regulatory processes by getting **quicker access to new medicines**. The EU and U.S. can work together to simultaneously eliminate and reduce duplicative and burdensome processes, submissions, evaluations, testing and inspections, without lowering the strong regulatory systems for medicinal approval. Beyond this, TTIP can ensure this cooperation is sustainable and evolves as new discoveries and processes emerge.

2 Mutual recognition of manufacturing site inspections can optimise regulators' resources and reduce costs

Both EU and U.S. maintain high regulatory standards on of manufacturing sites inspections. **Mutual recognition of Good Manufacturing Practices** (GMP) inspections via TTIP could reduce duplicative inspections of manufacturing sites on both sides of the Atlantic by 40%. This would result in significant cost savings for industry and the regulators, which could be used for research and development and allow regulatory agencies to focus on sites in higher risk countries in other parts of the world. These savings would be especially beneficial for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for which site inspections impose proportionately greater burdens.

3 Reducing the number of clinical trials in children

Most countries require clinical trials in children if the medicines are to be sold for paediatric purposes. While the EU and U.S. regulatory agencies both hold high regulatory standards for the development of paediatric medicines, they maintain different approaches to do this. Creating common procedures and timing for submitting paediatric plans through TTIP could **reduce unnecessary and duplicative testing on children**, and accelerate the delivery of new paediatric medicines.

4 Supporting the development of innovative new medicines and vaccines

TTIP can **improve the environment for research and innovation**, which are key drivers of the knowledge-based transatlantic economies and essential for the development of new and improved life-saving high-quality medicines and vaccines. In this respect, maintaining robust standards for intellectual property protection is important in providing incentives to engage the high-cost and high-risk investments needed to bring to life innovative products which improve patients' lives around the world.

5 Sustaining the creation of jobs in the pharmaceutical sector

By strengthening and developing the transatlantic pharmaceutical market, TTIP can support the creation of high-quality jobs in Europe and the U.S. The transatlantic pharmaceutical market already sustains over 1.5 million direct jobs, generating up to four times as many jobs in associated industries. TTIP can not only help protect these jobs, but also **create new employment opportunities** throughout the pharmaceutical development and delivery chain: scientists, pharmacists, regulatory experts, packaging officers, production staff, etc.

6 Increased transparency and due process in pricing and reimbursement systems

A more predictable and transparent environment for access to new medicines will benefit patients, healthcare systems and industry. TTIP can help **promote fair, predictable and transparent processes for pricing and reimbursement of medicines** that reflect the value new medicines can bring to healthcare systems and society. This can be enshrined in an Annex on Pharmaceuticals, consistent with existing legislation and following best practices supported in recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), such as the EU and U.S. trade agreements with Korea.

7 Opening up markets stimulates competition and greater choice for consumers and patients

The benefits of free trade and opening up markets are numerous. Free trade agreements lower trade barriers through reduced import tariffs and administrative burdens, amongst other expenses, which in turn reduces costs of production. Opening up markets also **provides consumers with increased choice** at better conditions.

8 Increased regulatory convergence can stimulate SMEs and the life sciences ecosystem

Reducing regulatory duplication can have a significant positive impact on all companies, but SMEs stand to gain the most. Many new medicines are developed through research collaborations with academic institutions and smaller enterprises. Reducing the costs of duplicated site inspections, for instance, can have a particularly **positive impact on smaller companies** that are central to the broader life sciences ecosystem.