

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.2.2021)

The Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe¹ foresees a number of actions to ensure affordability of medicines for patients and health systems' financial and fiscal sustainability. This includes better understanding and greater clarity on aspects of national competence like pricing mechanisms.

As a first step, based on the actions described in the strategy, the Commission is engaging with Member States to develop a concrete plan with deliverables. Under the group of national competent authorities in the areas of pricing, payment and procurement policies, Member States will share knowledge and exchange best practices, while they can make use of opportunities from EU funded tools. In addition, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development project² will provide expertise, including the development of analytical frameworks and the definition of relevant indicators.

Moreover, one of the options in the recently published inception impact assessment³ for the revision of the orphan and paediatric legislation seeks for more clarity on the return on investment received. The options developed for orphan and paediatric medicines can inform the discussion on incentives for unmet needs of medicines in general.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0761&from=EN>

² <http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/access-to-medicines.htm>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12767-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-medicines-for-children-and-rare-diseases>