

Brussels, 2 December 2024

Open letter: EU Health Union and Competitiveness – the Strategic Relevance of the Medical Technology Sector

Dear Deputy Permanent Representatives,

In view of the upcoming EPSCO Health Council meeting on 3 December 2024, [MedTech Europe](#), the European trade association of the medical technology industry, including medical devices, diagnostics and digital health, calls for an explicit acknowledgment of the strategic relevance of the medical technology sector for health, EU prosperity and competitiveness.

The medical technology industry is a thriving sector. Medical devices and *in vitro* diagnostics play a central role in saving and improving people's lives while enhancing the overall sustainability of healthcare systems.

Europe is attractive for its innovative medical technology research ecosystem, its efficient and accessible healthcare system, and its growing efforts towards value-based healthcare principles. However, to maintain its position as the global hub of medical technology innovation, Europe must address key challenges that threaten its competitive edge.

One of Europe's unparalleled strengths lies in its innovation capacity. The medical technology sector in Europe files a patent every 30 minutes. This is a testament to its commitment to save lives and help people manage and improve their health. Yet, Europe faces the challenge of bridging its top-tier innovation creation and an often (too) slow innovation launch. Coupled with tough competition from other regions of the world, Europe's international competitiveness gap is widening.

In light of the Draghi Competitiveness Report, MedTech Europe calls for urgent action to bridge these gaps through the following measures:

- **Structural reform of the regulatory framework:** Streamline the implementation of the Regulations (EU) 2017/745 and 2017/746 to foster timely and safe innovation launches.
- **Policy synchronisation:** Align regulatory requirements across different policy domains to reduce legal uncertainty, mitigate fragmentation of the internal market, and reduce regulatory and administrative burden, thereby boosting investor confidence.
- **Strategic investments in healthcare systems:** Prioritise investments in more efficient and sustainable healthcare systems, supported by digital health and medical technologies to reduce the cost of care, and help secure Europe's position as a global leader in healthcare innovation and Europe's wider sustainability and digitalisation ambitions.
- **Value-based procurement:** Promote procurement practices focused on value, complemented by a joint decarbonisation and competitiveness approach to align Europe's environmental and economic goals.

MedTech Europe, on behalf of the medical technology industry, stands ready to leverage the transformational potential of medical technology to improve lives and healthcare ecosystems. Together, we can ensure Europe's prosperity and competitiveness for the future.

For additional recommendations, please see:

- [MedTech Europe position paper on The Future of Europe's Medical Technology Regulations](#)
- [Joint statement on the future of the Medical Technology Frameworks](#)

- [MedTech Europe position paper “EU Prosperity and Competitiveness: Recommendations for Implementing the EU Green Deal in Healthcare](#)
- [Joint COCIR and MedTech Europe Vision for Strengthening Cybersecurity in Europe's Future Healthcare Systems](#)

Best regards,



Oliver Bisazza
CEO MedTech Europe