

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002070/25
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(22 May 2025)**

Subject: Meeting of 30 April 2025 between Commissioner Várhelyi and representatives of the innovative pharmaceutical industry

The recent high-level meeting between Health Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, which was not attended by any DG SANTE officials, raises concerns about transparency, balance and institutional representation in EU decision-making.

1. DG SANTE officials help to draft and defend the pharmaceutical package, so why were they not included in a meeting that has a direct impact on the pharmaceutical sector?
2. US pharmaceutical companies recently announced investments to relocate production and investment in innovation from Europe to the US. Were these investments discussed at the meeting?
3. Given that negotiations on the pharmaceutical package are ongoing and the Commission's role is to promote evidence-based policies, will the meeting affect its stance in the negotiations on the pharmaceutical package as regards tariff policy and the extension of data protection to companies that do not invest in Europe?

Submitted: 22.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 August 2025)**

1. The meeting mentioned by the Honourable Member, between the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, was prepared in coordination with the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), as is standard for all stakeholder engagements related to DG SANTE files. The minutes of this meeting ⁽¹⁾ with the list of topics discussed were made public according to the Commission's rules on transparency.
2. As regards the discussion of United States' pharmaceutical investments, in line with the Commission's commitment to transparency, the minutes of the meeting were published in the Transparency Register ⁽²⁾. The topics discussed are listed there and focused on the pharmaceutical reform and the EU regulatory environment for medicines.
3. The Commission has not changed its position on the reform of the EU pharmaceutical legislation as set out in its proposals for revision ⁽³⁾ and continues to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council. Its position remains guided by the objectives of the proposal and a solid evidence base.

⁽¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/exportmeetings.do?doc=1147aa8a-a6a3-4679-9b59-08d464b0624f&host=no>.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=cdb3f8c0-d25c-4aad-bcea-f6ed0fa66d82&page=3>.

⁽³⁾ COM/2023/193 final and COM/2023/192 final.