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2025 SOCIAL SECURITY FINANCING BILL

1.2 billion: a mistake that came out of nowhere!

- ***How can we justify a forecast error of 1.2 billion euros in spending on drugs, which appeared at the last minute before the Social Security Budget passed through the Senate?***
- ***How can we trust the government's word and a system that is out of breath and only knows how to invent one thing: new taxes?***

After numerous requests to all levels of government, we have just obtained a quantified analysis from the administration, justifying a sudden forecast 'error' by the public authorities of €1.2 billion a year in drug expenditure for 2024 and 2025.

This 'error' is attributed to a supposed drop in the discounts granted by manufacturers to the French social security system, whereas our monitoring tools do not anticipate any slippage of this order. As a reminder, every year these discounts represent several billion euros paid back by our companies to the community, helping to contain public spending.

Even if there were a problem with rebates, which is still not the case today, the impact on the Social Security accounts would only be a fraction, thanks to the safeguard clause mechanism.

A brutal and totally unfounded U-turn

At a time when public finances are suffering a critical deterioration, the French government is once again, in alarming haste, targeting the pharmaceutical sector, which already has one of the highest tax burdens in Europe. These decisions seriously jeopardise the confidence and stability needed to ensure France's health sovereignty and French patients' access to their medicines.

After the failure of the PLFSS 2025 to pass through the National Assembly, the government is asking the Senate to examine a text amended at the last minute on the basis of untested assumptions.

The preparation of the Social Security Financing Bill is supposed to be based on consultation with all stakeholders and on clear, shared commitments. **These principles are now being flouted by hasty and unjustified revisions.**

The government's explanation defies both the most elementary logic and the available industrial data. Above all, it serves to justify the coercive measures that have been announced:

- Additional price cuts on medicines, which are already almost impossible for our companies to absorb.
- De-capping of the safeguard clause, in flagrant contradiction with **the stability commitments made by the government itself** in the PLFSS initially presented (capping for 2023-2025). These commitments, which have been repeated by **three successive governments**, are intended precisely to avoid a relapse into these last-minute surcharges. In the end, the clause, which was supposed to be a safeguard against unforeseen expenditure, has been transformed over the years into a tax in disguise, systematically penalising businesses.

Disastrous consequences

These incoherent decisions and haphazard methods of the state apparatus are jeopardising:

- Therapeutic innovation, which is essential if we are to meet the growing needs of the French people.
- National and European production, which is crucial to guaranteeing access to treatments.
- International competitiveness, in an area where governments are competing fiercely to attract investment in healthcare research and industry.

'*Pharmaceutical companies in France, already faced with disproportionate taxation and unpredictable regulation, find themselves in an untenable situation. This latest blow seriously calls into question the trust that can be placed in public words*', emphasises Thierry Hulot, President of Leem.

An appeal to the Senate: guarantee stability and credibility

We call on the Senate, the guarantor of institutional stability at this time, to reject these incoherent and destructive decisions. Senators now have the responsibility of preserving confidence in our institutions and restoring a fair and predictable regulatory framework.

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