

Social Security Financing Bill 2025: against a backdrop of unprecedented political crisis, Leem once again calls for greater predictability in the economic burden weighing on its companies

After the Barnier government's censure and the halting of the Social Security Financing Bill (PLFSS) 2025, Leem, the professional organisation for pharmaceutical companies, is once again warning of the potential consequences for our healthcare system, patients and the future of the industry of the absence of budgetary texts and the implementation of measures not agreed with the sector.

For the first time in 15 years, an agreement was reached in the joint committee on the PLFSS 2025. The agreement was admittedly imperfect from the point of view of pharmaceutical companies, which saw the burden of regulatory measures and pressure on them increase still further, but it did have the merit of giving them some visibility over the coming months. There is now considerable uncertainty surrounding the mechanisms for financing the social security system and the joint commitments between the State and the industry. This situation calls for swift, well-informed decisions to avoid a lasting stalemate and a loss of attractiveness for our region.

'France is going through an unprecedented political crisis that calls into question our collective ability to ensure the long-term future of our healthcare system. Faced with this situation, we are calling for a collective leap forward to secure patients' access to treatment and care, preserve jobs in the healthcare industry and guarantee our country's health sovereignty', says Thierry Hulot, President of Leem.

A fragile ecosystem

The pharmaceutical industry, a key player in France's healthcare sovereignty, makes a significant contribution to the sector's competitiveness and employment, with more than 108,000 qualified employees and growth of 2.4% in 2023. Nearly 5,000 people are expected to be recruited between now and 2030 to meet the needs of the new professions. However, this dynamic is threatened by growing economic and political instability:

- Fiscal pressure and instability, coupled with price cuts on medicines, are jeopardising the economic sustainability of our businesses.
- Increasingly burdensome and unpredictable regulation, which is holding back innovation and investment.
- Persistent uncertainty over funding mechanisms and commitments.

Our proposals for breaking the deadlock

First of all, in order to guarantee budgetary sincerity and the transparency of public accounts, we once again ask that the alleged slippage in drug-related revenues - raised by the administration in the middle of the examination of the PLFSS for 2025 - be examined as quickly as possible.

In addition, we remain collectively mobilised on the priorities necessary to preserve our social protection system while enabling pharmaceutical companies to have the means to fulfil their mission to serve patients:

- **Respecting budgetary commitments:** in accordance with the commitments made, the safeguard clause ceiling for 2023-2025 must be strictly respected, before embarking on a downward trajectory as recommended by the interministerial mission on the financing and regulation of healthcare products.
- **Reform of the calculation of the safeguard clause:** its postponement is necessary to avoid further economic instability.
- **Predictability and sustainability:** price cuts on drugs must be capped at €850 million by 2025.
- **Shortages:** finally set up a government steering committee involving all the players in the pharmaceutical industry, and provide transparency on the real state of stocks at each link in the chain rather than proposing new indiscriminate sanctions.
- **Protecting our sovereignty:** build a political and economic framework favourable to strategic investment in France, both for innovation and the production of medicines in France and Europe.

A call for action and efficiency

Leem responsibly calls for an overhaul of public policies on pharmaceuticals, so that we can pursue a genuine health policy serving French patients. More than ever, it is vital to bring together all the players involved to reform the system and restore France to the position it deserves.

'Now is not the time for division, but for consultation. For months we have been defending savings measures based on efficiency and common sense. We are ready to work together again on solutions to protect our healthcare system while preserving the attractiveness of our industry', concludes Thierry Hulot.

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