

OPEN LETTER TO EU COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL

Brussels, 11 March 2025

A COMPETITIVE, EUROPEAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY FOR HEALTH AND PROSPERITY: Delivering on the EU Competitiveness Compass, Clean Industrial Deal and Single Market Strategy

In view of the EU Competitiveness Council meeting on 12 March 2025, [MedTech Europe](#) the European trade association of the medical technology industry, including medical devices, diagnostics and digital health, calls on ministers to reaffirm the **recognition of life sciences in the Competitiveness Compass**. It explicitly acknowledges that **investing in life sciences holds significant potential for boosting competitiveness across multiple sectors**, emphasising that without health, no wealth can be generated. Medical technologies as an essential life sciences sector are critical for the world-class performance and future resilience of European health systems.

To turn the ambitious Competitiveness Compass into tangible outcomes, speed and unity of all actors to **close imminent innovation gaps** will be key. We recommend prioritising the following actions:

- **A structural reform of the sector's regulatory system** set by Regulations (EU) 2017/745 and 2017/746 by early-2026
- **Better alignment and simplification of regulatory requirements across different policy domains to boost investor confidence**: insufficient synchronisation today causes legal uncertainty, fragmentation of the internal market, regulatory and administrative burden.
- **Allocating strategic investments to build a more efficient, sustainable, and resilient healthcare infrastructure throughout the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, to leverage digital health and innovative medical technologies to ensure equitable, timely, and affordable patient access to care, while fostering a resilient and innovative medical technology ecosystem, contributing to health, growth, jobs and wider sustainability and digitalisation ambitions.
- **Implementing value-based procurement and joint decarbonisation and competitiveness planning** to bridge Europe's environmental and economic goals.
- **Harnessing partnerships and ensuring a fair national, EU and global level playing field for companies**

As climate, health and competitiveness are intrinsically linked, **the Clean Industrial Deal is an opportunity for Europe to create an enabling framework for a competitive MedTech industry – at political, regulatory, and financial levels**. Among others, MedTech Europe promotes accelerating the roll out of clean energy and infrastructure, designing a supportive sustainable framework, leveraging the synergies with digitisation for efficiency and enabling increased circularity in healthcare. The design of realistic, patient-centric and economically viable transition pathways for medical technology manufacturers and their supply chains will ensure that patients and practitioners can rely on uninterrupted access to medical technologies during the transition.

As an immediate outcome of the European Commission's ongoing targeted evaluation running until end-2025 – **a package of legislative reforms for each of the two sector specific regulations (EU) 2017/745 (Medical Devices) and 2017/746 (In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices) should be developed** to ensure that these regulations deliver on their original objectives. It is imperative that the improved regulatory systems meet three criteria: being **efficient, innovation-friendly** and **well-governed**, while providing a high level of product safety and performance. Immediate targeted measures also are needed to support device availability and the viability of the medical technology industry by increasing the predictability and accessibility of the regulatory system.

Reforming the regulatory system will help the European Commission to meet its competitiveness and simplification goals. In addition, the **pending Simplification Omnibuses on Sustainability and Investment** can further support patient access to medical technology while upholding agreed climate goals.

In addition, **recommitting and strengthening the EU Single Market is without alternative**. We call on the Competitiveness Council to promote the upcoming EU Single Market Strategy as a critical opportunity to reinforce the simplification, coordination, and efficiency needed to strengthen Europe's healthcare ecosystem. By aligning policies, improving regulatory coherence across all EU legislation, implementing value-based procurement and joint decarbonisation and competitiveness planning next to fostering stronger public-private collaboration, Europe can unlock the full potential of medical technologies. A well-functioning Single Market is not just an economic necessity—it is essential for improving diagnosis, treatment, and overall patient well-being.

Finally, with respect to digitalisation, **enhancing cybersecurity and data protection in European healthcare systems** is essential to safeguard patient data and ensure the availability of safe and top-tier innovations across the EU. Ensuring sector-specific regulatory frameworks that align with the digital transformation will strengthen Europe's position as a global leader in medical technology innovation while maintaining high safety and ethical standards.

As the EU charts its course towards sustainable competitiveness and prosperity, MedTech Europe remains available to contribute constructively to shaping these policies for the benefit of people in Europe, its healthcare systems and the wider economy.

Sincerely yours,



Oliver Bisazza
CEO of MedTech Europe

For more detailed recommendations from MedTech Europe, please see:

- [MedTech Europe position paper on The Future of Europe's Medical Technology Regulations](#)
- [MedTech Europe Open letter to Stella Kyriakides on the urgent need for action on the medical technology regulations](#)
- [MedTech Europe recommendations on the Clean Industrial Deal](#)
- [MedTech Europe recommendations on the Single Market Strategy](#)
- [MedTech Europe position paper on EU Prosperity and Competitiveness: Implementing the EU Green Deal in Healthcare](#)
- [Joint COCIR and MedTech Europe Vision for Strengthening Cybersecurity in Europe's Future Healthcare Systems](#)