



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

## Press Release

For immediate release

Wednesday, 08 July 2009

### **BGMA welcomes European Commission's Pharmaceutical Sector Inquiry Report**

The BGMA today welcomed the publication of the final report of the European Commission's inquiry into the pharmaceutical sector.

BGMA Director Warwick Smith said:

*"The Commission's findings that originator drug companies use a variety of tactics to delay the launch of cost effective generic medicines fully reflects our own experience. These activities increase NHS costs without any benefit to patients and limit access to medicines.*

*We welcome the Commission's commitment to consider enforcement action against originator companies that act to delay generic launch.*

*We also strongly support the Commission's proposals to deal with delays to generic launch due to weak or unreasonable patents through the creation of a Community patent and a single, expert European patent litigation system.*

*Generics make the drugs bill and the NHS affordable. Actions to delay their launch following patent expiry act against the interests of the NHS, its patients and the country."*

– Ends –

#### Further information:

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#### Note to Editors

The European Commission today published the final report of its inquiry into the pharmaceutical industry. Details can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/competition/sectors/pharmaceuticals/inquiry/index.html>.

The British Generic Manufacturers Association represents the interests of UK-based manufacturers and suppliers of generic medicines and promotes the development and understanding of the generic medicines industry in the United Kingdom. The website address is: [www.britishgenerics.co.uk](http://www.britishgenerics.co.uk)

Generic medicines contain the same active ingredient and are as effective as the equivalent brand and cost much less, making the NHS drugs bill affordable. 64% of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 29% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of around £7.5bn in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level. The average cost to the NHS of a generic medicine is £4.62, whilst the average cost of a branded medicine is £20. Competition from generics also stimulates the research based pharmaceutical industry to develop new medicines.