



BRITISH GENERIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

Generics must not lose sight of their core mission

The Director General of the British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA) will today stress the generic medicines industry's core role in ensuring that patients have access to affordable medicines and in driving innovation.

Speaking at the European Generics Association (EGA) industrial policy conference, Warwick Smith will say:

"Focussing on commercial issues such as intellectual property, trade and competitiveness are vital if the generic industry - which saves the NHS more than £11billion a year – is to thrive.

"However, the reason we exist is to ensure increased access to medicines while providing cost savings. We also drive innovation by competing with established originator drugs. We are the engine room behind a virtuous circle of innovation and cost containment - that's our mission."

Mr Smith said that with the right commercial and regulatory environment, the generic medicines industry should continue to grow but this was a means to continuing to provide important access to medicines.

He adds: "As an industry if we don't thrive, we won't succeed in our mission which means patients will be denied access to medicines as a result. So whenever we discuss industry issues we must always think about the impact of the patient in the end."

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

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. 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. More than two thirds of all medicines dispensed by the NHS are generics yet they cost only 29% of the NHS drugs bill, a saving of more than £11billion in England & Wales alone. Without generics, the NHS drugs bill would be approximately twice its current level.