



Ministry of Economic Development,  
Labour and Technology

**Polish Presidency  
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Polish Investment  
& Trade Agency  
PFR Group

## **V4 + France Business Meeting: Challenges for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors**

### **Background information**

On June 21, 2021 at the International Cultural Center in Kraków (Cracow), the Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Investment and Trade Agency are organizing the Meeting of the Ministers for Economic Affairs of the V4 countries and France with business and academic community representatives: *“Challenges for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors”*

The meeting of the V4 and French economic ministers with representatives of business world and academia, will be an opportunity to discuss and exchange views on the challenges facing the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors related to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic.

The issue of finding a cure and vaccine for Covid-19 and improving patients' access to drugs have become a priority for the entire world of science and all countries. The protection of human life and health is the most important value and industrial and technological capabilities are considered very important elements of the international competitiveness of the European Union's economy. The experience of the last year has shown that over-reliance of Europe's drug supply on long supply chains is dangerous and can lead to significant drug shortages.

The main reason for these shortages is the concentration of production of active pharmaceutical substances (APIs) for the global pharmaceutical industry in China and India. The discussion on the resilience of the value chain in this area and the recovery from the crisis have taken on a new, urgent character. The existing EU policy has to be reviewed for issues related to the security of supply of raw materials, using in particular tools and measures to monitor shortages, build stocks for producers and traders dealing with critical products, and secure and ensure minimum EU production capacity for specific critically important products, these measures should including targeted reshoring.

The meeting will be an opportunity to exchange information on projects planned by individual countries in the field of development of research and development activities in the area of active pharmaceutical substances and drugs, and support in the area of building production infrastructure.