



European Commission - Speech
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Speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at the Global Forum for Vaccine Sovereignty and Innovation marking the launch of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)

Paris, 20 June 2024

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

I am pleased to participate in this game-changing event aimed at promoting health across Africa. Let me thank France for hosting it.

COVID-19 humbled us all. It claimed lives, undermined economic growth and revealed deep-rooted inequalities.

But we were quick to learn lessons from it.

The EU and its Member States came together as Team Europe to lead the response of the international community, together with key partners like GAVI.

We soon realised that in addition to dealing with the acute crisis, it would be vital to boost Africa's health resilience in the longer-term.

We made it our mission to support African efforts to manufacture health products in their continent.

I would like to make three points.

First, I am confident that today's launch of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator will accelerate the growth of Africa's pharmaceutical sector and boost equitable access to quality health products.

I applaud GAVI for designing it, and am proud to say that Team Europe is its main financial partner.

I can announce that the European Commission is contributing EUR 220 million to AVMA.

This brings the total Team Europe contribution to over EUR 800 million.

AVMA is complementary to Team Europe's broader commitment to health manufacturing for Africa, in Africa. This brings me to my second point.

Through cooperation with the WHO and African, European, and international partners, Team Europe is implementing an ambitious initiative called Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies.

Or MAV+ for short.

Our MAV+ efforts focus on cultivating the right environment for the production and uptake of health products and innovations. It has 3 pillars: regulatory framework, offer and demand.

If we count in today's contribution to AVMA, Team Europe has already mobilised over EUR 2 billion in grants and loans under MAV+.

And concrete results are emerging.

Critical vaccines are being produced in South Africa.

State-of-the-art manufacturing facilities are taking shape in Rwanda and Senegal.

Ghana is poised to follow.

As African vaccine and medicine manufacturing picks up pace, we need to ensure there is sufficient demand for these products.

AVMA will help manufacturers get a decent price for their vaccines, ensuring an attractive and sustainable market for African-produced products. This contributes to the third pillar of our initiative.

Finally, in order to promote health and wellbeing for all, we must also strengthen broader health systems and access to care.

Team Europe is collaborating with the World Health Organization on various policies, such as the expansion of universal health coverage in partner countries.

Team Europe is also the largest contributor to the Pandemic Fund, which strengthens pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities.

We recently launched four innovative Team Europe initiatives with African partners. We aim to improve health security, support public health institutes, boost digital health, and strengthen social protection systems.

Colleagues,

Through continued partnership – and through continued innovation – we can deliver better long-term health and well-being for all, leaving no one behind.

SPEECH/24/3403