



## PRESS RELEASE

# Margaritis Schinas and Adrian Van Den Hoven visited ELPEN

12 October 2021. The Vice President of the European Commission for promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas, and the Director General of Medicines for Europe, Adrian Van Den Hoven, visited the manufacturing facility of ELPEN in Pikermi and toured ELPEN's under construction Research and Innovation Park in Spata.

The visit took place within the framework of the international Annual conference of Medicines for Europe and the International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association entitled "Goal 2030: Access for all - Generating a healthy medicines strategy for the next decade" of the Association "Medicines for Europe" and the "", which took place between October 6-8 2021, in Athens, hosted and co-organized with the Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industry (PEF).

During their visit to the facilities of ELPEN, Vice President Schinas and Mr. Van Den Hoven toured the company's facilities in Pikermi, as well as the new Research and Innovation Park which is currently under construction in Spata, and met with ELPEN Executives and Greek scientists working in its current Research and Development departments.

ELPEN has been producing branded generic medicines for over 56 years in the Greek market. Our company's priority is to research and develop new treatments that will improve patients' quality of life. ELPEN contributes to the steady supply of pharmaceutical in the Greek market, ensuring the unhindered access of patients to products that cover a wide range of therapeutic needs and are distinguished for their high quality and affordable price.

The new Research & Innovation Park is part of ELPEN's € 120 million investment plan, which is being developed over the next four-year period, and is intended to become one of the world's most distinguished centers in the health sciences with an emphasis on innovation, research and education.

Today, ELPEN Group employees 1,100 workers. With the new investments currently being implemented, 250 new direct jobs will be generated for highly skilled personnel, actively contributing to the repatriation of Greek scientists and simultaneously tackling Greece's Brain Drain.

During his visit to the ELPEN premises, the Vice President of the European Commission, **Margaritis Schinas**, commented *"My presence in Athens today is related to the Annual Conference of Medicines for Europe and IGBA, the associations representing generic medicines in Europe, where I gave the opening*

*Key Note speech this morning. However, I also wanted to make field visits to Greek pharmaceutical companies, which demonstrate a dynamic tone of growth through their exports of innovative products and substances, which bring together manufacturing with research and innovation. I believe that right now Europe is turning the page on dealing with the pandemic and is looking forward to the management and construction of a new European Union for health, with positive resolutions outside of the crisis climate. The Greek pharmaceutical industry can prove to be a lever in this recovery process. We have unprecedented European resources at our disposal to support digital, innovative and research export activity. We have a new European regulatory framework that will emerge from the revision of the general pharmaceutical legislation, but above all we have the dynamism of the people in the private sector and the industry. We have the creativity of the research communities in Greece and I believe that in the long run we will see this sector, the pharmaceutical sector, becoming the main field for brain gain return. That is, the young Greeks who will associate their vision of return with their participation in these new productive and export oriented businesses".*

Respectively, the Director General of Medicines for Europe, **Adrian Van Den Hoven** stated that *"Medicines for Europe is honoured that Vice President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas was visiting the production facility and future R&D centre of one of our most important members in Greece, ELPEN. As this visit shows, our industry is committed to investing in security, R&D and job creation in Greece and in Europe. We really need the future Pharmaceutical and Industrial Strategies for Europe to focus on sustainable markets for off-patent medicines supply and for investment in value added medicine innovation. Our companies are also hoping that the EU recovery and Resilience Fund will, as promised by the Commission, encourage investment in modern technology in the EU to make Europe competitive with Asia. This will require the EU to adjust its guidance on state aid for medicines production which is too restrictive for national recovery and resilience plans."*

Lastly, the CEO of ELPEN group and President of the Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industry (PEF), **Theodoros Tryfon** pointed out that *"The visit of Vice President Margaritis Schinas and Mr. Adrian Van Den Hoven undoubtedly is a special honor for our company. Taking into account the developmental prospects of the Greek pharmaceutical industry, ELPEN continues its activities and is implementing its new investment plan. The pharmaceutical policies pursued during the years of the memoranda's unfortunately caused serious distortions in the market, threatening the viability of the Greek pharmaceutical industry. The pandemic, of course, added to the challenges of the past. During the crisis, the Greek pharmaceutical industry ensured the availability of essential medicines for the Greek patients and provided security of supply for the country. The next day, needs to support the investments pipelined by the pharmaceutical industry, with the aim of protecting the health of all European citizens. In this direction, the national plan "Greece 2.0" is an important tool for Greece, as it can turn the pandemic crisis into an opportunity, since it is well connected with a series of reforms in the area of health and pharmaceuticals. This tool, in combination with the geographical position of our country and our highly specialized workforce, can lead to the emergence of Greece as a European Scientific Hub for research and development. "*