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Factsheet for the Danish government's Growth Plan for Life Science

In June 2016, the Danish government established the Growth Team for Life Science. The main objective of the team was to make recommendations on how to improve the conditions of the life science industry and contribute to future growth and job creation in Denmark. The Growth Team submitted its recommendations to the Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs in March 2017.

Growth Plan for life science

With this growth plan, the government aims to make Denmark a leading life science nation in Europe by improving the growth conditions for the life science industry focusing on 6 key areas. Building on a robust foundation constituted of a strong Danish health care system and world class environments for business and science, the growth plan will support the current development in the life science industry. The growth plan launches initiatives targeted at barriers and opportunities for Danish life sciences across the entire value chain of the industry – from research to commercialisation, approval and sales in the international markets. With its growth plan, the government is following up on the recommendations made by the Growth Team for Life Science.

I. Attractive conducting R&D in Denmark

It is important that the business conditions for research and development in Denmark are internationally competitive. It is important for future growth in the industry that universities and hospitals continue to perform research of high quality and relevance. The growth plan contains the following initiatives:

1. Increased tax deductions for research and development (R&D)

2. Prioritisation of public funding to research areas relevant for life science
3. Strengthening excellent research
4. Better opportunities for tomorrow's top scientists
5. Service check of life science research conducted at public institutions

II. More clinical research to Denmark

It is a fundamental condition for life science companies that new products must undergo comprehensive clinical trials before being introduced to the market. A strong clinical research environment is not only vital to ensure growth in life science companies; it also supports the ongoing development of the healthcare sector. The growth plan contains the following initiatives:

6. Establishing a national organisation to promote clinical trials in Denmark
7. Reduction on fees for commercially initiated clinical trials
8. Service check of the affiliation rules for cooperation between the private and public sectors in the healthcare sector

III. A top-class Danish Medicines Agency

A strong regulatory national competent authority within life science is a key to strengthen both the Danish life science industry and patient safety by supporting fast and flexible access to new, efficient and safe pharmaceuticals and medical devices. A strong Danish voice in the relevant European and international forums is a high priority. Therefore, the Danish government will strengthen the Danish Medicines Agency (Lægemiddelstyrelsen) in its domestic, European and international tasks. The growth plan contains the following initiatives:

9. Increased Danish influence in the European HMA medicines network and increased drug safety
10. Strengthening of the Danish Medicines Agency's engagement in the European Medicines Agency (EMA)
11. Increased dialogue with the life science industry in a professional dialogue forum

12. Pilot scheme for the introduction of risk sharing into the drug subsidy system
13. Consultations with The Reimbursement Committee
14. Promote the basis for the establishment of notified bodies in Denmark and implementing a good regulatory framework for the medical device industry
15. Scientific advice by the Danish Medicines Agency
16. Analyse the possibility of allowing the Danish Medicines Agency to provide regulatory guidance on medical devices and equipment
17. The Danish Medicines Agency will henceforth send out digital notification letters to health professionals (DHPC) from companies

IV. *Better access to skilled labour*

The demand for highly skilled labour in the life science sector in Denmark is increasing. The ability of the education system to meet labour demand of businesses is an area that is followed closely by the Danish government. The growth plan contains the following initiatives:

18. Technology pact including the life science industry
19. Expansion of the tax scheme for foreign researchers
20. Evaluation of the student intake of higher education programmes
21. The life science business is to be represented on the Danish Health Authorities' forecast and student intake committee

V. *More start-ups and digital transformation*

Developing new life science products is risky and time consuming. Therefore, life science start-ups have a particular need for venture capital. At the same time entrepreneurial skills are important enabling more people to start their own company and making more new knowledge and research available to the private sector. Finally, it is important to avoid unnecessary barriers when introducing new digital solutions. The growth plan contains the following initiatives:

22. Investigate opportunities to increase investments in life sciences, e.g. via a new fund
23. Better conditions for compensating employees with warrants

24. Introduction of investor tax deduction
25. Agile regulation
26. Digital hub for a stronger growth environment
27. Strengthened investment culture in Denmark
28. Strengthened technology transfer from universities
29. Simple and effective framework of cluster and innovation initiatives within life science
30. Mapping of entrepreneurship courses in higher education programmes within life science

VI. Targeted internationalisation efforts

The export opportunities of Danish life science companies will be further supported through targeted internationalisation efforts. This includes the establishment of close dialogue and cooperation with local health authorities abroad and enhanced export promotion efforts in selected markets. Additionally, there is a continued need to brand Denmark internationally as a leading life science nation and attract more foreign investments to Denmark.

31. Strengthened international cooperation with health authorities to promote Danish exports
32. Strengthened life science expertise on key markets to ensure increased market access and export
33. Increased efforts to attract knowledge intensive life science investments to Denmark
34. Establishment of an export forum for life science
35. Strengthening of Healthcare Denmark with particular focus on life sciences
36. Establishment of a new Innovation Centre Denmark in Boston, USA

Finally, a new life science unit at the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs will be established. The overall responsibility for the follow-up on the growth plan will be rooted in the Ministry of Industry's new life science unit, which represents the business policy efforts in relation to the life science industry. In general, the unit will focus on

the growth conditions of the life science industry, including ongoing dialogue with the industry in order to respond quickly to new technological business models and market conditions, including eliminating unnecessary barriers to the growth and development opportunities of the industry.