

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

EU2025DK

Copenhagen Life Science Summit

Life Science: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness

October 8-9 2025

The life science sector is one of Europe's key strengths and a cornerstone of our societies, delivering better health for citizens, economic productivity and growth, as well as medicine security. Yet, the EU faces two pressing challenges that threaten its long-term ability to improve patient care: European competitiveness is waning as the private sector struggles to keep pace with global rivals in the race for innovation and investment. Meanwhile, wide gaps persist across member states, both in the sector's economic contribution to society and in the access to innovative medicines. Enhancing European competitiveness and spreading its gains across the Union are essential to building stronger health systems for the benefit of patients and practitioners alike.

Investing in health enhances economic productivity, reduces healthcare costs, and fosters social equity by ensuring access to care and improving overall well-being. It also strengthens societal resilience, drives innovation through public-private collaborations, and supports long-term sustainability in health systems.

On October 8, Healthcare Denmark will host a reception at the Copenhagen City Hall.

On October 9, the *Copenhagen Life Science Summit - Life Science: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness* will explore how Europe can reclaim its leadership in life sciences while aligning public and private goals to ensure that the benefits of competitiveness are widely shared. The conference will focus on how forthcoming initiatives under the EU's *Competitiveness Compass* can drive progress across five horizontal enablers: lowering barriers to the single market; expanding access to investment; fostering skills, quality jobs and social fairness; simplifying regulation; and improving policy coordination across member states.

Discussions will center on how to unlock Europe's potential by making sure that strategic investment in health and stronger public-private partnerships can enhance economic productivity, reduce healthcare costs, and build social resilience and equity by ensuring access to care and improving overall well-being.

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday October 8

Venue: Copenhagen City Hall, Raadhuspladsen 1, Copenhagen

Time	Content	Speakers
	Reception	
17.30	Arrival, registration and networking	
18.00	Welcome	Lars Weiss , Lord Mayor, Copenhagen
18.10	Opening remarks	Sophie Løhde , Minister for the Interior and Health, Denmark
18.30	Networking dinner	
20.00	End of reception	

Thursday October 9

Venue: Mærsk Tower, Copenhagen University, Blegdamsvej 3B, Copenhagen N

Time	Content	Speakers
	Conference	
08.00	Arrival, registration and networking	
09.00	Welcome and opening remarks	David Dreyer Lassen , Rector, University of Copenhagen & Lykke Friis , Director, Think Tank EUROPA
09.15	Opening Keynote	<i>Unlocking Europe's Potential: A Life Sciences Strategy for Prosperity and Health</i> Stéphane Séjourné , Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, European Commission (TBC)

		<i>The opening keynote will present the Commission's vision for strengthening Europe's life sciences sector, detailing key policy initiatives under the Strategy for Life Sciences and the Competitiveness Compass.</i>
09.35	Keynote	<p><i>Losing Ground? Challenges for Europe's Life Sciences Sector in the Global Race for Innovation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Kuiper, Associate Director and Head of the Social Europe & Well-Being Programme, European Policy Centre <p><i>The keynote will assess the core drivers of Europe's competitiveness in life sciences and identify future policy challenges for the EU.</i></p>
09.55	Panel Debate	<p><i>Back in the Lead: How to Design a European Industrial Policy for Public Health and Innovation</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Lykke Friis, Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research, and Innovation, European Commission (TBC) • Stefan Oelrich, President, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Association (TBC) • Mónica García Gómez, Minister of Health, Spain (TBC) • CEO, Novo Nordisk A/S (TBC) • Dolors Montserrat, MEP; Member of Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), European Parliament (TBC) <p><i>The panel will debate the priorities for EU industrial policy by exploring the risks and potential of tools such as public investment, policy reform, and joint procurement to drive innovation in life sciences while advancing European public health objectives.</i></p>
10.40	Coffee Break	
11.10	Fireside chat	<p><i>Aligning Public Goals with Corporate Growth: Lessons from the Nordic Experience</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Lykke Friis, Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lars Rasmussen, Chair of the Board for Coloplast and WS Audiology; Chair of the Danish Life Science Council

		<i>This session will present the lessons learned from the Nordic approach to public-private partnerships and explore how these strategies could be scaled at the European level.</i>
11.25	Panel Debate	<p><i>Public-Private Partnerships: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness and Health?</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Lykke Friis, Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Minister for Health, Ireland (TBC) • Kerstin Jorna, Director-General for DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission (TBC) • Charl Van Zyl, CEO, H. Lundbeck • Stine Bosse, MEP, Vice-Chair on the Committee on Public Health (SANT), European Parliament <p><i>The panel will examine the role of public-private partnerships in fostering life sciences innovation and strengthening healthcare. Speakers will discuss how Europe can build more effective national and cross-border collaborations between the public and private sectors.</i></p>
12.10	Networking Lunch	
13.10	Keynote	<p><i>Why life science must be at the heart of Europe's industrial strategy to drive innovation, economic resilience, and public health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morten Bødskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Denmark
13.30	Panel Debate	<p><i>Unlocking the Societal Value of Innovation: Shaping the Future of Resilient, Sustainable and Innovative Healthcare in Europe</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Gallina, Director-General for DG for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission • Søren Nedergaard, CPO - Portfolio, People & Partnerships, Novo Nordisk Foundation • Teresa Graham, CEO, Roche Pharmaceutical • Marco Greco, President, European Patients Forum (TBC)

		<i>The conversation will assess how strategic investments in life sciences can strengthen healthcare systems across Europe through economic growth and improved patient outcomes.</i>
14.15	Keynote	<p><i>Aligning Public Goals with Corporate Growth: Lessons from Europe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Ferracci, Minister for Industry and Energy, France (TBC)
14.30	Panel debate	<p><i>How to Boost Private Investment in Start-ups and Scale-ups: The Role of Regulation and Capital Market Reform</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, ThinkTank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gelsomina Viglotti, Vice President, European Investment Bank (TBC) • Jens Nielsen, CEO, BioInnovation Institute Foundation, Copenhagen • Kim Jørgensen (To be announced) • Rafaele Tordjman, Founder and CEO, Jeito Capital (TBC) • Pascal Canfin, MEP, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food (ENVI); and the Committee of Public Health (SANT), European Parliament (TBC) <p><i>This session will debate how the EU can bridge the private investment gap in life science research and innovation – in particular what regulatory reforms are needed to unlock private funding and how the EU can steer capital markets towards socially beneficial investments.</i></p>
15.15	Coffee Break	
15.45	Panel Debate	<p><i>Spreading the Gains of Competitiveness: Enhancing Access to Innovative Healthcare Across the EU</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, ThinkTank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anca Toma, Executive Director, European Patients Forum (TBC) • Vlastimil Válek, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Czech Republic (TBC) • Benjamin Rochette, Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, Coloplast • Audrey Duval, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Sanofi (TBC) • Radan Kanev, MEP, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food (ENVI), European Parliament (TBC)

		<i>The panel will discuss how the EU's industrial strategy should be accompanied by measures to improve equitable access to innovative treatments and ensure that investments in new life sciences hubs deliver benefits across all member states, for example through regulatory reform, financing conditionalities, stronger coordination, or joint procurement.</i>
16.30	Closing Remarks	<p><i>Moving Forward: Next Steps for Europe</i></p> <p>Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark (TBC)</p> <p><i>The closing remarks will reflect on key takeaways from the conference and highlight actionable next steps for policymakers to reinforce Europe's leadership in life sciences.</i></p>
16.45	End of conference	
16.45	Closing Reception	
18.00	End of Closing Reception	