

EU2025DK

Copenhagen Life Science Summit

October 8-9

With a predominant focus on human health, the forthcoming European life science strategy will be an example of a forward-looking policy that intend to harness the potential of innovation and new technologies while upholding the core principles of universal access to high-quality care – a hallmark of healthcare in Europe.

With the Competitiveness Compass, the EU Commission has set a new political direction in which research and innovation is at the heart of boosting European competitiveness to ensure sustainable prosperity, aiming to develop and produce tomorrow's technologies – made in Europe innovation. The Draghi Report highlights the life science industry, encompassing both pharmaceuticals and medical devices, as an example of what the EU can achieve in technology and innovative product development.

On October 8-9, Rigshospitalet and Healthcare Denmark will host Copenhagen Life Science Summit as part of Denmark's EU Presidency (July 1 - December 31, 2025), which will be included in the official conference programme during the Presidency, focusing on the life science sector in a European context.

Copenhagen Life Science Summit will explore the state of the current EU health ecosystem in a global context highlighting the role for a strong ecosystem approach to European cooperation between industry, academia, public health authorities and patients. The summit will contribute to the promotion of Europe as a leading life science region, where new innovative health solutions are to the benefit of patients and the European health systems.

The forthcoming EU Strategy for Life Sciences adopts an approach where "life sciences" as a term is broadly understood as the study of living systems, from microorganisms, plants, animals and human beings to ecosystems. It encompasses sectors from pharmaceuticals to agriculture, energy, food and feed. The strategy will identify key challenges and opportunities to speed up the safe development, deployment and uptake of life sciences-based innovation, including to support the digital and green transitions of our society and economy. In this context Copenhagen Life Science Summit focuses specifically on life sciences in relation to human health. It includes research, innovation, commercialization, scale up and implementation in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical technology as well as AI and other data driven and digitally enabled health care solution.

Copenhagen Life Science Summit aims to facilitate broad stakeholder discussions on a number of thematic topics with the objective to shape policy discussions and the EU Strategy for Life Sciences:

- On October 8, Rigshospitalet will host a high-level conference day: "Invest, Innovate, Collaborate, Elevate: Strategic Perspectives for an Innovative and Competitive European Life Sciences Ecosystem" that will discuss and shape policy recommendations in the context of the EU Strategy for Life Sciences. The conference will focus on translational research and clinical trials, life science innovation ecosystems, uptake of innovative health solutions and interdisciplinary infrastructures for transformative life science R&I.

On October 8, Healthcare Denmark will host a standing dinner reception in Copenhagen City Hall.

- On October 9, Healthcare Denmark will host a high-level conference day: "Life Science: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness" that will discuss how the European life science sector will be a catalyst for competitiveness with a close link to the EU Compass. The conference will focus on how Europe, through public-private partnerships, can enhance competitiveness and attain strategic autonomy.

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday October 8

Invest, Innovate, Collaborate, Elevate: Strategic Perspectives for an Innovative and Competitive European Life Sciences Ecosystem

Venue: Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 2100 Copenhagen

Time	Content	Speakers
8:30	Arrival, registration and networking	
09:00	Welcome and fireside discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome by Rasmus Møgelvang, CEO, Rigshospitalet and Lars Gaardhøj, Chairman, Capital Region of Denmark. Fireside discussion by Margrethe Vestager and Enrico Letta (tbc) <p>Moderator: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p>
09:30	Panel discussion	<p>State of the current EU health ecosystem in a global context Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Macintyre, President, Biomedical Alliance in Europe Nathalie Moll, CEO, EFPIA (tbc) Oliver Bisazza, CEO, MedTech Europe (tbc) Ernst Kuipers, Vice President (Research), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; and Prev. Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands Marco Greco, President of European Patients Forum (tbc)
10:15		<p>Introduction to break-out discussion by Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p>
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Walk to Roundtable discussions	

11:15	Roundtable discussions	<p>RTD 1: Strengthening applied transnational and clinical research By Chair, Cristina Messa, former Minister of University and Research, Italy; and Co-chair, Malene Fischer, Research Director, Rigshospitalet.</p> <p>RTD 2: Boosting the innovation of the European life science industry By Chair, Prof. Chantal Mathieu, KU Leuven (tbc); and Co-chair, David Dreyer Lassen, Rector, University of Copenhagen.</p> <p>RTD3: Supporting the uptake and implementation of medical technologies and health care solutions By Chair, Heyo Kroemer, CEO, Charité (tbc); and Co-chair, Rasmus Møgelvang, CEO, Rigshospitalet.</p> <p>RTD 4: Securing EU as a world leader in personalised medicine and prevention By Chair, Jens Habermann, CEO, BBMRI-ERIC (tbc); and Co-chair: Bettina Lundgren, CEO, Danish National Genome Center (tbc).</p> <p>RTD 5: Addressing European regulatory challenges By Chair, Enrico Letta, IE University's School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs (tbc); and Co-chair Ida Sofie Jensen, CEO, Lif.</p>
12:45	Walk to lunch area	
13:00	Lunch & networking	
14:00	Panel debate	<p>How to create a world class European Ecosystem in life sciences Moderator: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Dreyer Lassen, Rector, Copenhagen University • Thomas Hoffmann, Director, Technical University Munich, Innovation District Munich (tbc) • Rasmus Møgelvang, CEO, Rigshospitalet, Innovation District Copenhagen • TBA
14:30	Pre-recommendations from Roundtable discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied translation and clinical research, by chair • Cross-sectoral partnerships and innovation districts, by chair • Adopting efficient innovative solutions while eliminating low benefit health care, by chair

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world leader in personalised medicine and prevention. How to make the most of data sharing, digitalisation, and the use of AI, by chair • Addressing European regulatory challenges, by chair
15:20	Short break	
15:40	Keynote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mario Draghi, former President of European Central Bank & Author of the Future European Competitiveness Report (tbc)
16:00	High level panel debate	<p>Moderator: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, Think Tank EUROPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekatarina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research, and Innovation, European Commission (tbc) • Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education & Science, Denmark • European minister of health • Rasmus Møgelvang, CEO, Rigshospitalet
16:30	End of conference	

Wednesday October 8
Life Science: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness

Venue: Copenhagen City Hall, Raadhuspladsen 1, Copenhagen

Time	Content	Speakers
	Reception at Copenhagen City Hall	
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
Life Science: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness

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

Time	Content	Speakers
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	Unlocking Europe's Potential: A Life Sciences Strategy for Prosperity and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, European Commission (TBC) <p>The opening keynote will present the Commission's vision for strengthening Europe's life sciences sector, detailing key policy</p>

		initiatives under the Strategy for Life Sciences and the Competitiveness Compass.
09.35	Keynote	<p>Losing Ground? Challenges for Europe's Life Sciences Sector in the Global Race for Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Kuiper, Associate Director and Head of the Social Europe & Well-Being Programme, European Policy Centre <p>The keynote will assess the core drivers of Europe's competitiveness in life sciences and identify future policy challenges for the EU.</p>
09.55	Panel Debate	<p>Back in the Lead: How to Design a European Industrial Policy for Public Health and Innovation</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 (TBC) • Dolors Montserrat, MEP; Member of Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), European Parliament (TBC) <p>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.</p>
10.40	Coffee Break	
11.10	Fireside chat	<p>Aligning Public Goals with Corporate Growth: Lessons from the Nordic Experience</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 <p>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.</p>

11.25	Panel Debate	<p>Public-Private Partnerships: A Catalyst for European Competitiveness and Health?</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 (TBC) <p>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.</p>
12.10	Networking Lunch	
13.10	Keynote	<p>Why life science must be at the heart of Europe's industrial strategy to drive innovation, economic resilience, and public health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morten Bødskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Denmark
13.30	Panel Debate	<p>Unlocking the Societal Value of Innovation: Shaping the Future of Resilient, Sustainable and Innovative Healthcare in Europe</p> <p>Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen, Deputy Director, ThinkTank 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) <p>The conversation will assess how strategic investments in life sciences can strengthen healthcare systems across Europe through economic growth and improved patient outcomes.</p>

14.15	Keynote	Aligning Public Goals with Corporate Growth: Lessons from Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Ferracci, Minister for Industry and Energy, France (TBC)
14.30	Panel debate	How to Boost Private Investment in Start-ups and Scale-ups: The Role of Regulation and Capital Market Reform Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen , Deputy Director, ThinkTank EUROPA <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>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.</p>
15.15	Coffee Break	
15.45	Panel Debate	Spreading the Gains of Competitiveness: Enhancing Access to Innovative Healthcare Across the EU Moderated by: Ditte Brasso Sørensen , Deputy Director, ThinkTank EUROPA <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)

		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.
16.30	Closing Remarks	<p>Moving Forward: Next Steps for Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark (TBC) <p>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.</p>
16.45	End of conference	
16.45	Closing Reception	
18.00	End of Closing Reception	