Central European Time

02 Dec 2026

IN-PERSON EVENT

12:15-14:15

Martens Centre HQ, Rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels

Competing to Lead:

Can Europe Still Win the Global Industrial Race?

ABOUT THE EVENT

Europe's industrial base is under growing pressure. While the EU debates how to simplify its rules and mobilise investment, global competitors are moving with long-term, state-coordinated strategies.

China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) puts biomanufacturing, advanced manufacturing and health innovation among its national priorities, and is backed by dedicated sectoral plans. The risk for Europe is clear: slower authorisation pathways, fragmented funding and regulatory complexity could push research, manufacturing and capital elsewhere. That would affect strategic sectors from pharmaceuticals and medical technologies to industrial biotechnology, agri-food and advanced manufacturing.

Two important votes are due in December: the European Biotech Act and the revision of the Medical Device Regulation. These will test whether the EU can turn its competitiveness agenda into concrete legislation.

This event provides a platform to discuss these challenges and key events, with the aim to secure Europe's place in the sectors that will shape its prosperity and strategic autonomy.

In collaboration with EFPIA

efpia

PROGRAMME

12:15 Registration and light lunch

13:00 Welcome remarks

13:05 Panel discussion

13:55 Q&A

14:15 End of event

SPEAKERS

Welcoming Remarks:

Tomi Huhtanen
Executive Director, Martens Centre

Discussants:

Andrea Chiarello
Vice-Chair Advocacy Group, EFPIA, Head of EU Policy and Communications, Pfizer

Fredrik Erixon
Director, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

Tomislav Sokol
MEP, EPP Coordinator, Committee on Public Health (SANT)

Moderator:

Sara Pini
Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

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Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

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