

SPEECH BY JESUS ACEBILLO
RENEWAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COLLABORATION PROTOCOL WITH
FARMAINDUSTRIA (29TH December 2016)

Minister of Finance and Public Service; Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality; authorities, Farmaindustria colleagues, ladies and gentlemen and friends: I thank you all for your presence at this event.

I would like to begin this brief procedure by publicly acknowledging the Ministers' work and leadership, which has made it possible to sign the renewal of our collaboration agreement. I would also like to thank the teams from the Ministries, and their Secretary General in charge, for their work; teams with whom we have worked for a long period of time, within a framework of exigency, but also one of frank understanding.

I hasten to say that the pharmaceutical industry is a key player within the health system. There can be no other way; it would not do us any good to develop the best medicine if we fail to reach the patient who needs it. To achieve this is the task of all those who work within the healthcare industry, and as such, it is also our commitment; within the health system and with patients themselves.

But at the same time, we also understand the current and great challenges facing Spain, particularly within the health system. Our country has seen the back of a severe crisis, by entering a phase of economic and social recovery, which will require a complex process of consolidation; a hugely relevant consolidation process, where robust policies will be required to facilitate the establishment of new productive models that generate growth and prosperity.

At the same time, the health system faces colossal challenges, where demographic evolution, chronicity and innovation will transform the current understanding of many diseases, the way in which these diseases will be managed by the health systems, and the life of many patients. These will therefore be the three strategic elements that determine the immediate future (demography, chronicity and innovation), strategic elements that will oblige all those who operate within the health sector to constructively seek innovative, structural and medium- and long-term solutions in order to make the system a sustainable one.

In this context we read this Protocol of collaboration with the Government. We read this in terms of responsibility and commitment towards sustainability, at a key moment of consolidation in the economic recovery in Spain, where technological sectors with a traction effect and growth potential, such as the Pharmaceutical Sector, must contribute and maximize that 'pulling power', while avoiding the deterioration of their progressive ratios with regards to GDP.

This protocol, as you all know, is very demanding within the pharmaceutical industry, since it obliges us to keep up with the growth of the country's economy, which is not easy for an innovative technological sector like ours, which has a powerful, stimulating effect on other related sectors, and therefore carries in its genes the need to grow.

On the other hand, with our participation in this Protocol, we are favouring a framework of stability and predictability that is very valuable for a sector that works in the long term, of which innovation in new medicines requires. In this context of recovery and consolidation in which we are immersed, we only hope that once Spain

reaches its objectives of controlling the deficit in line with the European framework, we can resume the path of growth, which an innovative sector with high added value such as ours needs, in order to maximize their economic and social contribution.

This Protocol also allows us to show resolutely, our offer of dialogue and commitment to society and our country. We believe that our sector must play a prominent role in the economic and social recovery of Spain, since competitiveness in the knowledge-based economy is essential for growth in Europe and the world. The pharmaceutical industry is intensive in terms of innovation, skilled employment, productivity and export, playing a very relevant role within the current Spanish industrial map, and with great potential to continue improving its ratios of efficiency and competitiveness, always in clear alignment with The Public Administrations.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our gratitude towards the Government for its confidence and vision in defining new models of joint collaboration with productive sectors such as ours. I wouldn't like to finish these few words without first thanking all our partners, the 175 companies that form part of Farmaindustria, for their determination and responsibility, in taking on the commitments of this Protocol.

Today, by renewing this agreement, we renew our responsibility to the health system, its professionals and patients. We proudly take one step further in our common commitment to protecting everyone's health.

Thank you very much.