



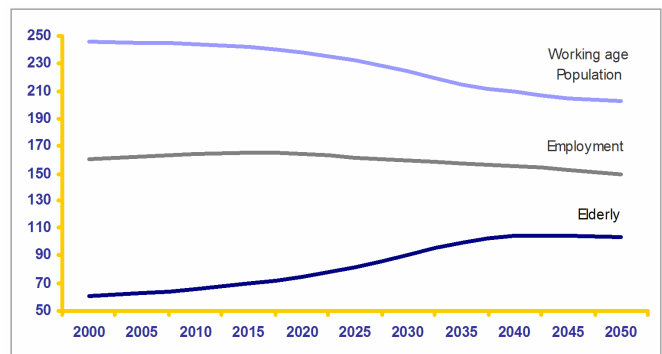
EGA *fact sheet* on generic medicines

Generic Medicines Ensuring Sustainable Healthcare in an Ageing Population

By 2030 there will be only slightly more than two working age citizens for each elderly person in the EU, instead of the current four.

As Europe's population grows older and healthcare demands increase, decision-makers face an alarming scenario of rapidly increasing healthcare costs.

According to studies from the EU Economic Policy Committee, on the "Budgetary challenges posed by ageing populations",¹ due to the growing number of elderly people amongst Europe's population, the number of working age citizens contributing to social service funds is rapidly diminishing, while conversely, the number of elderly citizens is rising. It is estimated that by 2030 there will be only slightly more than two working age citizens for each elderly person in the EU, instead of the current four.²



This increase in the number of beneficiaries of public healthcare services and the decrease in those contri-

Making Medicines Affordable

buting to its financial support are coupled with the fact that citizens aged 65 and over account for 30% to 40% of healthcare spending – far more than any other population group. “ ... expenditures per person increase with age, and are particularly high for the oldest age groups ...”³

The report continues to warn EU policy-makers that public spending on healthcare will rise by 4% to 8% of GDP over the next few decades, and insists “...that the budgetary impact of ageing is substantial, making it more difficult for Member States to comply with the budgetary requirements of EMU.”⁴

An increased use of generic medicines provides a crucial part of the solution to this problem: generics producers provide inexpensive medicinal treatment for precisely the chronic illnesses and conditions that

typically effect older citizens. Competitively priced, therapeutically equivalent generic medicines meet the same standards of safety, quality and efficacy as their originator products.

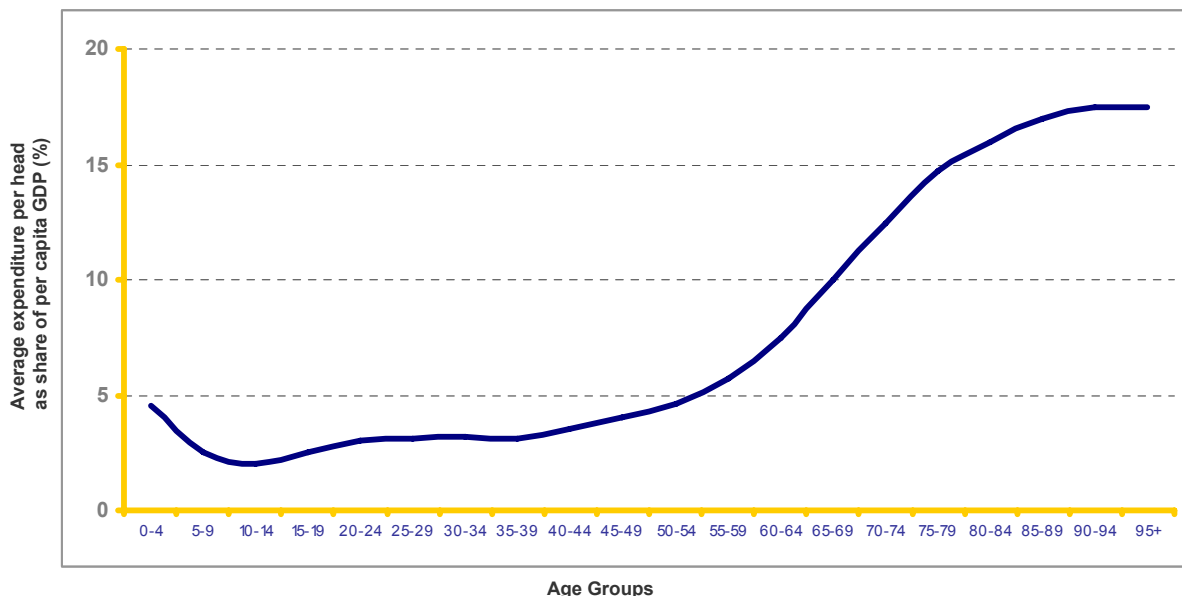
¹ Economic Policy Committee (EPC), “Budgetary challenges posed by ageing populations: the impact on public spending on pensions, health and long-term care for the elderly and possible indicators of the long-term sustainability of public finances”, Brussels, 24 October, 2001 (EPC/ECFIN/630-EN final). Available on-line: ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/epc/documents/summary_en.pdf

² EPC., pp. 3-4.

³ EPC, pp. 8-9.

⁴ EPC, pp. 8-9.

Average EU Healthcare Expenditure Per Head by Age Group⁴



Formed in 1993, the EGA is the official representative body of the European generic pharmaceutical industry, which is at the forefront of providing high-quality affordable medicines to millions of Europeans and stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the global pharmaceutical sector.