

- Nederland staat internationaal goed in de ranglijsten: Nederland staat op de tweede plaats in de Global Innovation Index (2018), waar oa de IP infrastructuur een belangrijk criterium is. En op de IE index van de US chamber of commerce (2019) staat Nederland op de 7^e plaats.
- Specifiek voor de Life Sciences & Health sector extra inspanningen om de kansen die samenhangen met de komst van de EMA te verzilveren (recente benoeming ambassadeur!).

Intellectual property

- The Netherlands is committed to a strong and balanced IP-system and sees it as an essential part of a healthy innovation environment. Our policy is aimed at strengthening the IP-infrastructure both in Europe (introduction of a unitary patent and a unitary patent court) and in the Netherlands (improving access to the IP-system for SME's).
- Intellectual property protection has to a large extent been regulated in supranational law both worldwide (TRIPs) and at a European level (EU, European Patent Convention). In these turbulent times this is of great value.
- The debate on pharmaceutical prices in the Netherlands is intense and sometimes quite emotional. The government is committed to a strong innovation climate and to all international obligations

Pharmaceutical Compounding

Recently the possibility of pharmaceutical compounding has been introduced in the Netherlands' patent act. In fact our law has now been brought in line with the regime that exists in most European countries. This means that compounding of a patented product is only allowed when the medicine is prescribed by a doctor and prepared for direct and individual use. This exemption is very limited.

If the product is no longer patented the pharmaceutical law system that is based on EU law applies. This includes strict rules on safety, good manufacturing practices and controls.

Compulsory licensing

In the debate on pharmaceutical prices compulsory licensing is sometimes being suggested as a possible solution. We see compulsory licenses as an extraordinary instrument for exceptional circumstances. This also follows from our TRIPs obligations. In fact the instrument has never been used in The Netherlands.