

PRESS RELEASE

Leadership Transition at GIRP: Katarina Gabrielson Takes the Helm

Brussels, 11 November 2025 – GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Association, is pleased to announce the election of Ms Katarina Gabrielson as its new President. She succeeds Mr Bernd Grabner, who has completed his distinguished tenure leading the organization, and she assumes the role immediately for a two-year term.

GIRP extends its deepest thanks to outgoing President Mr Bernd Grabner for his exceptional leadership. Over the course of his tenure, he helped shape GIRP into a more agile and forward-looking organisation, expanding its influence and strengthening its voice across Europe. His efforts have played a critical role in aligning the association with the evolving needs of the sector and of patients.

As President, Ms Gabrielson will lead the implementation of GIRP's strategic vision, championing fair competition, reducing unnecessary costs within the supply chain, and promoting the highest standards across the healthcare distribution sector. A key priority will be ensuring only providers that meet the strictest quality requirements are licensed.



“I am both humbled and deeply grateful for the trust our members have placed in me,” said Ms Gabrielson. “I take on this role with a strong sense of responsibility and purpose. GIRP must continue to advocate for a European model where the public service we provide is properly recognised and valued by decision-makers. In a world shaped by recent crises, resilience is no longer optional, it’s essential. GIRP will work to achieve legal recognition of systemic wholesalers as a distinct and vital category in our healthcare ecosystem.”

This reiterates GIRP's enduring mission: to ensure that no patient in Europe is left without the medicines they need. Every day, GIRP members — systemic pharmaceutical wholesalers — deliver over 62 million medicine packs across all 27 EU Member States, serving every inch of the European Union and ensuring equitable access to medicines to all EU citizens. In doing so, GIRP members reaffirm their unwavering commitment of medicines for all, wherever and whenever they are needed.

ABOUT MS KATARINA GABRIELSON

Ms Katarina Gabrielson has been the CEO of Oriola Corporation — one of Finland and Sweden's and largest pharmaceutical distributors — since 2022. She joined Oriola in 2012 and has held several key leadership positions, including Director of the Pharmacy Business Unit, Director of the Retail Business Unit, Vice President of Business Area Retail, and VP of B2B Business in Sweden.

With over two decades of experience in the retail and FMCG sectors, Ms Gabrielson's career spans business area leadership, purchasing, marketing, and product management. She has worked with multinational corporations, start-ups, and venture capital-owned companies, bringing a unique blend of operational leadership and strategic insight to the healthcare, pharmacy, and distribution industries.

ABOUT GIRP

GIRP is the umbrella organisation representing pharmaceutical systemic wholesalers in Europe. Our members deliver more than 62 million packs of medicines every day from 3500 manufacturers to more than 180.000 pharmacies and hospitals in Europe. Systemic wholesalers ensure the stable and continuous supply of medicines on which patients and healthcare professionals depend.

For more information, visit our website www.girp.eu

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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