

**Question for written answer E-008305/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Price discrimination in respect of generics

There are significant differences in the prices of pharmaceuticals within the European area. In relation to pharmaceuticals that are no longer patent-protected, generics can cost much less, as everyone knows, usually four times less than the original 'branded' products. In this market, price variations within the European area are enormous. For the same generic medicine, such as a product to lower blood pressure, the highest price can be 16 times more than the lowest.

These figures are very important, given that many of the medicinal products consumed in EU-27 are no longer under patent. It should be noted that the percentage of generic pharmaceuticals purchased also varies between Member States, reaching 50 % of the total volume of pharmaceuticals consumed in countries such as the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden, although it is lower in the majority of the other Member States.

In view of these figures, what measures is the Commission planning to put into practice within its sphere of competence to encourage the consumption of generics, simultaneously blocking the current practice of price discrimination between Member States?