

**Question for written answer E-008306/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Discrimination in the price of medicines

The price of pharmaceutical products is crucial to health, with drugs being the third-largest item of expenditure in Member States' health budgets. Health costs are extremely high and are rising more rapidly than Member States' GDP, mainly because of ageing of the population and the growing cost of developing new pharmaceutical technologies. Production is concentrated mainly in just a few Member States: France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the UK.

Prices of pharmaceutical products also vary from one Member State to another. A recent 2009 study comparing the prices of 150 drugs in 11 Member States revealed that the average price of this 'shopping basket' showed a variation of 25 % between the Member States with the lowest and highest prices.

In view of this observation, which indicates an obvious practice of price discrimination, with multinational companies maximising their revenue at consumers' expense, what is the Commission thinking of doing about this issue, which means that access to medication is not equal throughout the European space?