

**Question for written answer E-008319/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Bilde (NI), Sophie Montel (NI) and Mireille D'Ornano (NI)

Subject: Agreements in the pharmaceutical industry

In January 2008, the European Commission launched an inquiry into the pharmaceutical industry and, on 3 December 2010, it confirmed that surprise inspections had been carried out.

While many agreements are governed by national competition law and are therefore excluded from the scope of Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, others are fully governed by EU law.

The European Union, usually so prompt in denouncing all forms of protectionism and barriers to competition, appears to show less concern about agreements between major pharmaceutical laboratories and competitors specialising in the production of generic medicines.

Indeed, it would appear that fewer new products are coming onto the market, and that the arrival of generics is sometimes delayed.

Following Oral Question O-00094/2014, which was not submitted for debate, we should like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Can the Commission clearly explain the conclusions of its inquiries and the measures it intends to take to prevent agreements being drawn up in the pharmaceutical industry, be it within the Union or in non-EU countries?
2. Will the Commission be imposing fines on pharmaceutical groups abusing this practice?