

**Question for written answer E-015643/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Annie Schreijer-Pierik (PPE)

Subject: Reducing the prices of medicines

At present, there is not a sufficiently level playing field, or sufficient diversity of supply, on the European market for medicinal products. This means that the prices of medicines remain high, while a number of Member States have already stated that they are not prepared to buy medicines at such prices. Higher prices restrict the availability of medicines for patients. There is little cooperation among Member States in this field, with the result that demand for products from pharmaceutical companies does not change much. The Dutch Minister, Ms Schippers, has already attempted to buy medicines more cheaply together with some of her counterparts, and has also stated her intention of tackling the matter during the Netherlands' Presidency.

1. Is the Commission familiar with the current situation in Europe, in which the prices of medicines are high and there is little flexibility to permit Member States to opt for alternatives?
2. What will the Commission do to create more competition and a level playing field on the market for medicines, and thus to bring prices down?