

**Question for written answer E-002161/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Esther de Lange (PPE)

Subject: Dependent position of the medicine production chain

In recent years, Europe has faced shortages of medicines¹, and more producers of raw materials for them have relocated their operations, inter alia to China and India². The dependence of medicine producers on supplies from outside Europe raises questions about the resilience and security of supply of the European medicines market.

1. Is the Commission aware that, in the case of some antibiotics, only a few factories remain which produce the requisite active substances in Europe? If so, does the Commission also consider that this makes medicine production very vulnerable and that the limited production of raw materials in the EU is undesirable?
2. What practical measures will the Commission take to address this issue?

¹ <https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/nederland/artikel/4759781/tekort-medicijnen-apotheek-medicijntekort-onderzoek-rtl-nieuws>

² <https://fd.nl/economie-politiek/1304940/kabinet-wil-europees-aanpak-tegen-grote-medicijnafhankelijkheid-van-china-en-india>