

**Question for written answer P-002868/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL) and Jiřĩ Mařtálka (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Parallel re-export of medicines from Member States

There are still severe shortages of vital human medicines on the Czech market as a result of their mass parallel re-export to other countries. Some vital cancer treatments have recently been in short supply or entirely unavailable, as have treatments for other ailments, for example the antibiotic ointment Framykoin. This is clearly a long-term problem that has not been dealt with effectively. The parallel re-export of medicines as a result of low prices on the Czech market has led to national shortages. The issue is a clear violation of patients' rights.

Under EU law, can Member States impose limits on the percentage volume of medicines that can be exported from the country if those medicines cannot be substituted for another substance with the same medicinal properties? Under EU law, can Member States take action within the framework of their own laws to limit exports of medicinal products (maximum re-export limits) for the purpose of protecting human health and human lives and on the basis of the proportionality of such action?