

**Question for written answer P-005442/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Price of medicines in the European Union and current US ambitions

President Trump has announced his intention to increase the price of US medicines abroad. So far he has obtained concessions from South Korea. He also set his sights on the United Kingdom, but with less success. It is quite possible that President Trump will want to address a number of European countries directly, seeking to obtain an increase in the price of medicines.

Although the EU has regulatory mechanisms governing access to the medicines market, the pricing of medicines falls within the exclusive competence of the Member States. A number of Member States could, in theory, increase the price of medicines in general, and of US medicines in particular, within their own territory if they were persuaded to do so. However, such increases would have negative effects going beyond national borders – on patients, who are European citizens, and also on public insurers and the tax system, in particular through the External Reference Pricing system.

Given that this US campaign could affect all European countries, would the Commission be able to intervene to prevent or discourage Member States from making any increase in the price of medicines?

Is this subject being addressed, or could it be addressed, in the negotiations on transatlantic bilateral agreements?