

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3401/01
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to the Commission

Subject: Research into the manufacture of paediatric medicinal products

The medicines that are the subject of current research and approval procedures are, almost without exception, intended for adults and not for children. When children fall ill, they are often given the same medicines as adults, albeit at lower doses. Such medicines have not been tested on children, however, the reason being that children constitute a relatively small patient group and clinical trials are very expensive to conduct in the case of medicinal products.

Medicines that work well for adults do not necessarily work as well for children. Children's bodies are growing, children have a higher metabolic rate than adults, and children are more sensitive to active substances in medicines.

In December 2000, the Council adopted a resolution stressing that incentives were one possible route Europe could take with a view to increasing the range of paediatric medicinal products.

What progress is the Commission making as regards devising measures to promote clinical research which will result in better medicines for children?