

**Question for written answer E-010967/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Carl Haglund (ALDE)

Subject: Implications of Directive 2004/24/EC on traditional herbal medicinal products

Directive 2004/24/EC on traditional herbal medicinal products contains a seven-year transitional provision before the directive enters fully into force on 1 April 2011. The UK Herb Society has expressed misgivings that the entry into force of the directive may, in practice, threaten the variety of herbal medicines available since it may create a situation in which it is only worth licensing the most popular herbal medicines, such as garlic and ginseng products. Several EU citizens have contacted me to say that not a single Chinese or Indian (e.g. Ayurvedic medicines) herbal product has been licensed under the directive. EU citizens have also expressed misgivings that vitamin supplements will be removed from shop shelves as a result of the directive.

Does the Commission intend to:

- investigate the impact of the entry into force of the directive on the variety of herbal medicines available on the internal market, and
- propose a simplification of the rules and regulations so that herbal medicines can continue to be licensed and sold easily on the internal market, and in order to avoid creating a grey market in herbal products?