

**Question for written answer E-000560/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Italy: liberalisation of the sale of prescription medicines

The Italian Government is about to pass a budget package Article 32 of which sets out a measure extending the authorisation to sell Category C prescription medicines to outlets other than chemists, in particular supermarkets and parapharmacies.

These measures would make Italy the only country in the world in which prescription medicines are not sold exclusively in chemists.

This is worrying, in particular in view of the need to guarantee both the highest possible level of public health protection and the economic and technical independence of the professionals working in the health sector.

Could the Commission confirm whether the measures being proposed by the Italian Government concerning the authorisation of the sale of medicines in supermarkets and parapharmacies, in particular category C medicines, which require not only a doctor's prescription but also care in the way they are taken, are compatible with the need to safeguard consumers' health?