

**Question for written answer E-001886/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Strategy for the pharmaceutical industry and pricing in the internal market

In his address on the state of the European Union in 2012, Commission President Barroso stressed the importance of the pharmaceutical industry for economic growth in Europe and held out the prospect of a new industrial policy.

The Commission also undertook, in its communication on industrial policy of October 2012, to draw up a strategy specifically for the pharmaceutical industry which would address such important current issues as competitiveness, adaptation of legislation to the latest pharmaceutical developments and distortions in the internal market with regard to pricing, which result in inequalities in access to innovative drugs.

1. Will the Commission, as promised, publish this important strategy before the end of its term of office, so that the new Commission can deal with these subjects as a priority and promptly and can negotiate on them with the European Parliament?

According to the 2013 EU Industrial R&D Scoreboard, it is the pharmaceutical industry (including biotechnology) that invests most in research and development. At the same time, the economic context in which pharmaceutical undertakings operate is becoming increasingly unpredictable on account of practices introduced to control costs, such as international price referencing. This harms Europe's status as a research location and also has an adverse impact on access to drugs in many Member States.

2. In view of the above situation, will the Commission devote attention to these problems in its strategy and indicate possible solutions?