

**Question for written answer E-000315/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Causes of increasing medicine shortages

Numerous surveys have shown that there have been growing shortages of certain medicines in EU Member States and that this is having serious consequences. A recently published survey by the patients' association France Assos Santé confirmed that these shortages were affecting around 25 % of patients in France. According to the association, patients with long-term ailments, including those suffering from cancer, were the most affected. These shortages are having a detrimental effect on the ongoing treatment of the patients affected. In its press release concerning the survey, France Assos Santé stated that it was largely the industries that were responsible for these shortages, mainly due to their questionable financial strategies, to the withdrawal of certain medicines and to a concentration of production sites.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether medicine shortages may sometimes have been organised deliberately?
2. What is the Commission's position on the withdrawal of certain medicines and the concentration of production sites?