

**Question for written answer E-002270/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tomislav Sokol (PPE)**

Subject: Shortages of medicines

The EU is a leading global exporter of pharmaceutical products, the total value of which amounted to EUR 169.3 billion in 2018. In spite of this, EU Member States are increasingly facing shortages of medicines. Additionally, it is estimated that as much as 80% of the ingredients used in the production of antibiotics are manufactured in the People's Republic of China. India is considered to be the largest global manufacturer of generic medicines. However, at the beginning of March 2020, the Indian authorities placed restrictions on the export of 26 active substances and medicines, mainly antibiotics. Another problem is the small body of research on drug shortages in the EU that could serve as a scientific basis for serious legislative work. In view of the foregoing:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to return production of medicines to the EU and thus to ensure European sovereignty over the production of medicines?
2. When will the Commission carry out an in-depth analysis of the problem of medicine shortages in the EU and present its conclusions in Parliament?
3. Does the Commission intend to make efforts to establish a European medicine shortage notification system?