

**Question for written answer E-002678/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Julie Lechanteux**

Subject: European nations' medical sovereignty squandered

The coronavirus outbreak has highlighted just how dependent European nations have become on medical supplies from other parts of the world. We truly have surrendered our sovereignty!

According to a report by France's national pharmaceutical academy of 20 June 2018, entitled 'Pharmaceutical shortages', supply shortfalls are a daily concern for 86 % of Europe's hospitals.

The main categories affected are anti-infectious medicines and cancer drugs, closely followed by emergency resuscitation drugs, cardiovascular medicines and anaesthetics.

Listing the causes of this shortage, the report points to the globalisation of the pharmaceutical industry and the relocation of the manufacture of active ingredients to Asia.

In a communication of 30 March 2020, the academy called on French and EU authorities to encourage laboratories to resume research into new chemical drugs by launching calls for tender in the areas of medicinal chemistry and therapeutic innovation, to move the synthesis of active ingredients and the manufacture of medicinal products back to France and Europe, and to promote the teaching of chemistry.

In view of the above, how might the Commission go about championing a revival of the medicinal chemistry sector, which is now of greater strategic importance than ever?