

Question for written answer E-006853/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Pharmaceutical strategy for Europe

On 25 November 2020, the Commission adopted a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe to ensure that patients have access to innovative and affordable medicines and to support the competitiveness, innovation capacity and sustainability of the pharmaceutical industry across the European Union.

In its Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, the Commission stressed that decisions on the pricing and reimbursement of medicines are a competence of the Member States. Nevertheless, the Commission pledged to step up cooperation with and between Member States on the affordability and cost-effectiveness of medicines. The Commission also proposed setting up a group to steer cooperation between national pricing and reimbursement authorities and healthcare payers.

How specifically does the Commission plan to step up cooperation between Member States in this regard? What legal procedures does the Commission intend to establish and what form does the Commission understand the Cooperation Group will take, especially given that issues relating to public procurement, the coverage of pharmaceutical costs by healthcare systems and price levels may concern confidential information?

Does the Commission foresee any consultation with Parliament representatives in the Group's activities?