

**Question for written answer E-004021/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Engin Eroglu (Renew)

Subject: Medical self-sufficiency for the EU

The pandemic has shown that the EU needs some degree of self-sufficiency in health matters. There was a severe shortage of masks in the first few months. Prices rocketed as a result of producers initially supplying their home markets.

Vaccine distribution was to some degree prioritised in the countries where the vaccines were produced.

The desire for greater sovereignty and autonomy in health matters has grown stronger among the citizens and politicians and has been repeatedly expressed in the European Parliament. This autonomy also includes relocating central supply chains back to the EU in the area of health.¹

This gives rise to the following questions:

1. How can the Commission ensure that the production of health-related products is located in the EU when environmental constraints, energy and labour costs are lower in other countries?
2. Many of these products, such as FFP2 masks, are available extremely cheaply, particularly those from China. This raises the suspicion that these prices are below the production costs, with the aim of suppressing EU production by means of dumping prices. Dumping could be countered by the Commission by the application of punitive tariffs. Does the Commission consider there to be an initial suspicion of dumping in the case of health-related products?
3. If so, to which products does such a suspicion apply?

¹ https://ecfr.eu/publication/health_sovereignty_how_to_build_a_resilient_european_response_to_pandemics/