Question for written answer E-005528/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (PPE)

Subject: Tackling shortages of medicines and medical equipment: adapting the European Medicines Verification System (EMVS)

The European Medicines Verification System (EMVS) is a tool set up by Directive 2011/62/EU on the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of falsified medicinal products.

In the report entitled 'Future-proofing pharmaceutical legislation – study on medicine shortages' commissioned by the European Commission from the Technopolis company and published in November 2021, the EMVS is named as a potentially useful tool for fighting pandemics.

However, the EMVS is currently not able to provide a comprehensive overview of national stock levels, due in particular to the fact that the batches of medicines entered into the system are entered for all their possible destinations. As a result, they are counted a number of times before it is determined to which Member State they will be sent.

Given that a revision of the pharmaceutical legislation has been announced by the Commission for 2022:

1. Will the Commission follow up on the idea set out in the November 2021 report?

2. If necessary, how will the Commission review this tool so that marketing authorisation holders provide real-time data on the quantities and locations of the products available?