

**Question for written answer E-000565/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Major differences between EU countries as regards the availability of EMA-approved medicines

The largest and most recent European study on the availability of innovative medicines and waiting times for these shows that there are major differences between EU¹ countries.

Of the 152 products (medicines) approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in the period 2016-2019, patients in Germany, Denmark and Austria – the leaders in the rankings – could access 133 (88%), 131 (86%) and 124 (82%) respectively, while patients in Romania, Lithuania and Latvia could only access 39 (26%), 26 (17%) and 23 (15%) respectively.

Waiting times for medicines also vary dramatically across the EU. In Germany, the average waiting time between marketing authorisation and medicinal products becoming available in the period 2016-2019 was 50 days, while in Romania it was 859 days.

More seriously, patients in Romania and Latvia had no access to any of the new anti-cancer medicines approved by the EMA in 2018 and 2019.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Why it is that the countries at the bottom of the rankings are in that situation?
2. What concrete actions it has taken or is planning to take in order to remove the gaps between EU countries, so that all European citizens have equal access to the very latest medicines?

¹ <https://www.efpia.eu/media/602652/efpia-patient-wait-indicator-final-250521.pdf>