

**Question for written answer E-001582/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU pharmaceutical policy – supporting and rebuilding the production of active substances in the EU

One of the aims of the European Health Union, and the EU's pharmaceutical strategy in particular, is to strengthen pharmaceutical sovereignty within the EU. This involves guaranteeing Europe's open strategic autonomy, creating a crisis-resilient EU pharmaceutical system, ensuring access to and affordability of medicines and promoting environmentally sustainable pharmaceutical products. In light of the disruption to supply chains caused by the pandemic, transport difficulties, armed conflicts and geopolitical challenges, the production of active substances in the EU will need to be maintained, and in some cases rebuilt, to achieve the above goals. For years, active substance production has been moving out of the Member States to countries with lower environmental, climate and labour standards that, alongside other factors, make them more cost-effective, or to countries subsidising production in one way or another. With the above in mind:

1. What mechanisms are envisaged to support the production of active substances in the Member States within existing and future financial and legal frameworks?
2. Does the Commission consider supporting the production of active substances in the Member States to be a direct subsidy from the EU budget?