On 22 December 2021, the Commission adopted a Notice entitled ‘Application of the Union’s pharmaceutical acquis in markets historically dependent on medicines supply from or through parts of the United Kingdom other than Northern Ireland’. On veterinary medicinal products, this Notice extended until 31 December 2022 the same limited derogations set out in a previous Notice, which ceased to apply on 31 December 2021, from the provisions of EU law that apply to and in the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland pursuant to the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. The Notice acknowledges the difficulties that operators have had in adapting supply chains and the uncertainties about possible shortages of veterinary medicinal products in those markets that have historically depended on medicines supply from or through parts of the United Kingdom. Therefore, the Notice gives companies one more year to adjust.

The Commission will continue to gather information on the current situation on the ground with a view to identifying any outstanding implementation issues and finding the most appropriate way forward for ensuring long-term continuity of veterinary medicines supply to Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and Northern Ireland.