The Commission and the European Medicines Agency together with the network of national competent authorities monitor all shortages of medicines. The resilience of the EU as regards pharmaceutical supplies is one of the objectives of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe adopted on 25 November 2020. Regulation (EU) 2022/123 which entered into force in March 2022 reinforces the mandate of the European Medicines Agency to closely monitor and mitigate shortages of medicines in preparation for and during crises. A Commission Staff Working Document, published in October 2022, summarises the main challenges for pharmaceutical supply chain, and suggests approaches to identify critical medicines and to address vulnerabilities in the supply chain of medicines.

Prioritising the supply of gas to sectors that are critical to the health and well-being of citizens is an area falling within Member States’ competence. Energy supply for the pharmaceutical and chemical industries is considered as an additional factor of vulnerability. Following the REPowerEU Communication, the Commission issued guidance on the prioritisation criteria of non-protected customers like industry. The guidance focused on the identification of value chains of key and critical importance, which, if disrupted, could negatively affect health and safety at European and global level.

2 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A020%3ATOC&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2022.020.01.0001.01.EN