

**Question for written answer E-003630/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Energy crisis: our pharmaceutical industry in jeopardy

No sector has been spared the repercussions of the war in Ukraine. There is also a risk that the sanctions taken against Russia will seriously limit the gas and electricity supplies of the entire continent. Although rising energy costs are a serious problem for many companies, the shortages which have been announced threaten to bring many businesses to a standstill. Particularly in the pharmaceutical industry, there is a fear that, in the coming months, it will not be possible to guarantee patients access to their treatments.

A shortage of gas or electricity could hobble the production of medications and place EU citizens at serious risk. In theory, the EU is supporting the health sector through measures which provide incentives for Member States to prioritise certain industries if restrictions prove necessary. However, in reality these measures appear ineffectual, as described in a recent statement by LEEM, the organisation representing French pharmaceutical companies.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware that it is creating a public health risk for the entire continent by enforcing sanctions that harm European citizens?
2. How does the Commission intend to encourage Member States to prioritise the pharmaceutical industry in the quite likely event of energy restrictions?

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