

**Question for written answer E-000097/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Lack of generic medicines in Europe

Since the middle of December 2022, Europe has been experiencing a further shortage of commonly used healthcare products and medicines (antibiotics, anti-epileptic drugs, antidepressants), as well as products containing ibuprofen and paracetamol. This is an unsustainable situation for patients, who are inconvenienced and unable to obtain treatment. Management of this crisis has been left to the national authorities of each Member State, and different measures have been adopted in Italy, Greece and France.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission not think that it should adopt a central policy to prevent shortages in the production, supply and distribution of medicines and medical protective equipment?
2. What measures does it suggest to diversify supply chains, ensure the accumulation of strategic stocks, and encourage production and investment in Europe?
3. What measures will it take in the immediate future to address this situation and, in particular, to prevent companies from favouring markets that are unprotected and of greater speculative interest?

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