

**Question for written answer E-002773/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Roman Haider (ID)**

Subject: EU legislation to prevent medicine shortages

Shortages of medicines are becoming an increasing problem in the EU. The reasons for this are many and complex, but the EU's dependence on imports from a small number of regions and manufacturers is an increasing problem for the security of supply of critical medicines.<sup>1,2</sup> This is why in May 2023, 19 Member States drafted a non-paper calling for the EU to take more drastic steps to improve the security of supply of medicines in Europe.<sup>3</sup> The Centre for European Policy (cep) has also published a study specifically on how to prevent future medicines shortages in the EU<sup>4</sup>.

1. What is the Commission planning to do to prevent the EU's increasing dependence on imports from the USA and Asia, and specifically on difficult-to-replace active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)?
2. What does the Commission specifically intend to do to address the EU's increasing loss of market share in medical research and development?
3. Is the Commission considering EU legislation to prevent future drug shortages before they happen, and not only in crisis situations such as a cross-border health threat?

Submitted: 21.9.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/02/Non-paper-security-of-medicines-supply-02.05.23.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/cep.eu/Studien/ceplInput\\_Critical\\_Medicines/ceplInput\\_How\\_to\\_Prevent\\_Future\\_Medicine\\_Shortages.pdf](https://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/cep.eu/Studien/ceplInput_Critical_Medicines/ceplInput_How_to_Prevent_Future_Medicine_Shortages.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/02/Non-paper-security-of-medicines-supply-02.05.23.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/cep.eu/Studien/ceplInput\\_Critical\\_Medicines/ceplInput\\_How\\_to\\_Prevent\\_Future\\_Medicine\\_Shortages.pdf](https://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/cep.eu/Studien/ceplInput_Critical_Medicines/ceplInput_How_to_Prevent_Future_Medicine_Shortages.pdf)