

**Question for written answer E-003177/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Lutgen (PPE)

Subject: Statistics on medicine stocks and measures taken following the pandemic

The arrival of winter marks the return of seasonal illnesses.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became apparent that Europe was overly dependent on non-EU countries for its supply of medicines and vaccines, and also of medical equipment.

Moreover, in the winter of 2023, EU citizens were faced with shortages of all kinds of medicines, including very common ones. Some people had to travel to a different country to buy paracetamol. We also saw people on the internet helping each other out by sending each other boxes of medicine. It was like being back in the communist era, on the eastern side of the Wall!

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. In the context of the 'pharmaceutical reform', are there any statistics on medicine stocks, both at a European level and for the individual Member States and in particular, does this data show any improvement between the winters of 2020 and 2023?
2. What tangible measures have been put in place to ensure that from now on the EU no longer has to depend on non-EU countries in the health sector? Recent statements on the subject have been vague and appear to be wishful thinking.
3. What progress has been made in implementing the recommendations made following the pandemic?

Submitted: 26.10.2023