Question for oral answer O-000026/2020 to the Commission
Rule 136
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Subject: Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment


Article 8c of the Priority Substances Directive requires that this strategic approach should be followed up, where appropriate, by proposals for measures to be taken at Union and/or Member State level to address the possible environmental impacts of pharmaceutical substances, with a view to reducing discharges, emissions and losses of such substances into the aquatic environment, taking into account public health needs and the cost-effectiveness of the measures proposed. To be effective and spread efforts evenly, measures should not only include end-of-pipe controls (e.g. improved waste water treatment) but also address the original sources of emissions (e.g. production and use), and consider the terrestrial as well as the aquatic environment.

This Communication sets out six areas for action, and several specific measures: increasing awareness and promoting the prudent use of pharmaceuticals, supporting the development of pharmaceuticals intrinsically less harmful for the environment and promoting greener manufacturing, improving environmental risk assessment and its review, reducing wastage and improving management of waste, expanding environmental monitoring and filling other knowledge gaps.

As there is sufficient evidence that swift action should be taken to reduce the risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment:

1. What legislative and non-legislative measures is the Commission intending to adopt to reduce the risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment?

2. What is the timeline for these measures?

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