

**Question for oral answer O-000040/2020  
to the Council**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment

On 11 March 2019, the Commission adopted a communication on a European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (COM(2019)0128). As required by Article 8c of the Priority Substances Directive, this strategic approach should be followed, 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 the 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 actions relating to possible measures: to increase awareness and promote prudent use of pharmaceuticals; support the development of pharmaceuticals intrinsically less harmful for the environment and promote greener manufacturing; improve environmental risk assessment and its review; reduce wastage and improve the management of waste; expand environmental monitoring; and fill other knowledge gaps.

In its conclusions of June 2019, the Council stressed the need for 'the Commission to assess and define the most effective measures, including legislative measures, to mitigate the effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment and to combat the development of antimicrobial resistance and to reinforce the link with the health sector in this regard'.

1. What is the Council's position concerning the strategic approach and the actions put forward by the Commission?
2. What legislative and non-legislative measures does the Council intend to support in order to reduce the risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment?

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Lapses: 05/09/2020