

**Priority question for written answer P-002638/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Shortage of medicines used in hormone replacement therapies

Civil society organisations are warning that the hormone replacement medicines funded by Spain's public health system are in short supply. As a result, trans people either cannot obtain any medication, or face delays, and this has serious physical and emotional consequences. The Catalan health service is reporting that oestrogen is in short supply because Climodien©, Climen© and Progyluton© are unavailable in tablet form. Alternatives containing the same active substance are not covered under public health system funding.

Spain's medicines and health products agency has said that the shortage of medicines owned by Bayer Hispania S.L. is the result of capacity issues at the plant in Germany where the active substances are produced. This is causing supply problems all over the world. In its study on legal gender recognition in the EU¹, the Commission mentions problems with access to hormones that can be part of a transition process. It specifically refers to a shortage of medicines in Italy.

1. What steps is the Commission considering taking to address this problem as part of the EU4Health programme for 2021-2027, which includes access to healthcare for vulnerable groups as a policy area? And what is the Commission going to do to ensure that medicines and health products are available and affordable?
2. Is the Commission intending to include a focus on gender, given that these shortages are affecting women in particular?

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7341d588-ddd8-11ea-adf7-01aa75ed71a1>