Priority question for written answer P-003845/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
István Ujhelyi (S&D)

Subject: A single market for pharmaceuticals

The European Charter of Social Rights guarantees all citizens ‘timely, affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality’. The long-standing fragmentation of the pharmaceutical market in the EU violates this fundamental right of EU citizens, endangers their supply of medicines and threatens the efficiency of the European health system. A legal framework ensuring equal access to these medicines for all Member States does not exist. Even though a certain medication may be approved and available in some Member States’ markets, there will be other markets within the EU where the same medication is not obtainable.

1. President Ursula von der Leyen explicitly announced that the EU is already working on a long-term solution to enable a Europe-wide supply of reliable and affordable medicines (letter to the Maltese country, 25.4.2021). Does that mean that the Commission acknowledges the need for a regulatory framework to create a genuine single market for pharmaceuticals?

2. How will the Commission find short-term and efficient solutions to the problem of an up-to-date non-discriminating European pharmaceutical supply?

3. EU-wide standards such as the ePrescription and electronic health record systems also promote equivalent healthcare across national borders. Are there any concrete implementation plans?