

**Priority question for written answer P-001251/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: War in Ukraine and the threat to the supply of medicines in Europe

Following the many concerns raised about the security of medicines in Europe, the Commission, in a reform plan set out in the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe (SWD(2020) 286) published in November 2020, made a clear case for achieving independence and ensuring security of supply of medicines and pharmaceutical substances in Europe. However, the long-announced objective of returning pharmaceutical production to Europe has been paralysed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which itself has been seen as a 'warning call' for our continent. Russia's ongoing military action against Ukraine has led directly to the blocking of the land trade route through Ukraine. The complex global supply chain network – for some years mostly concentrated in Asia – has now been forced to redirect shipments of medical substances and components. There is a serious risk that security of supply will be affected unless specific support is provided and the transfer and supply process is reviewed.

At the next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Committee, scheduled for 5 April this year, are there any specific agenda items relating to an immediate preventive strategy for medicines and medicinal substances in the event that the delays and consequent disruption in the supply chain for medicines and the substances needed to make them result in a real shortage in Europe?