

**Priority question for written answer P-000107/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Urgent need for joint EU response to shortage of medicines most in demand

The increasingly short supply of certain medicines has recently become a problem in the Member States. This has largely been brought about by flagging production caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the resulting energy crisis, well as a reduction in output by countries with the requisite raw materials, most of which are to be found in Asia.

In the event of normal supply being interrupted by a war or a pandemic, European purchasers will be left severely short, a problem further exacerbated by the parallel export of medicines.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what measures it will take, in the short and long term, to ensure adequate supplies of all medicines in the Member States and boost the production of medicines and raw materials within the EU?
2. In addition to digital transformation and data sharing, what measures will it take regarding abuse of the right to parallel trade in medicines without breaching free market laws?

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