

**Priority question for written answer P-003398/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Addressing medicine shortages in the Member States

One of the four pillars of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe of November 2020 is improving preparedness and crisis response mechanisms, diversifying and securing supply chains and addressing medicine shortages.

1. What can the Commission do to prevent acute shortages of essential medicines in a Member State, such as have recently occurred in the Czech Republic?
2. What specific steps has the Commission taken thus far to ensure that medicine shortages do not occur again?
3. What concrete contribution will the pharmaceutical package (proposal for a new directive and a new regulation revising and replacing the existing general pharmaceutical legislation) presented in April 2023 make to addressing medicine shortages in the EU and to ensuring a continuous and uninterrupted supply of medicines in the Member States?

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