

**Question for written answer E-002808/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Ensuring EU competitiveness in pharmaceutical innovation

The pharmaceutical industry significantly contributes to Europe's economy, generating EUR 311 billion in gross added value and supporting 2.3 million jobs in 2022. However, recent analyses, including Mario Draghi's report on the future of EU competitiveness, highlight a widening innovation gap between Europe and global leaders such as the US and China.

The revision of the EU's pharmaceutical legislation is aimed at fostering innovation. Reducing the regulatory data protection (RDP) baseline from eight to six years, however, may counteract this goal. Stakeholders warn it could result in EUR 2 billion less in research and development investment annually and a potential loss of 50 treatments for European patients. This contrasts sharply with other regions strengthening intellectual property rights to attract investment and innovation.

In this context:

1. How does the proposed reduction in regulatory data protection align with the conclusions of Mario Draghi's report on European competitiveness, which emphasises fostering innovation in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals?
2. Does the Commission agree that shortening the RDP baseline could undermine EU competitiveness by deterring pharmaceutical investment and widening the innovation gap between the EU and other regions?

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