Question for written answer E-000902/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)

Subject: Ensuring availability of critical medicines and addressing shortages in 'small markets'

Access to critical medicines varies greatly from one Member State to another due to factors such as market size. Many innovative medicines are either not on the market or they are made available after significant delays in some markets, creating inequalities between patients across the EU, with smaller Member States tending to pay higher prices. In addition, the EU faces shortages in 33 medicines[1] and depends on a limited number of third-country suppliers for raw materials and active substances. The consequences of this reliance were felt during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How will it encourage the joint procurement of critical medicines and other medicines of common interest, with a special focus on 'small markets', and is it considering creating a voluntary joint mechanism for procurement cooperation between Member States facing similar challenges with regard to availability and access to innovative medicines and avoidance of shortages?

2. How will it encourage investment and the development of a framework that is more conducive to enhancing the EU's production capacity?

3. What steps will it take towards reducing reliance on third-country trading partners and strengthening the security and resilience of pharmaceutical supply chains?

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[1] European Medicines Agency (EMA)