

**Question for written answer E-003589/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Possible discriminatory tendering practices for medical gloves and their impact on EU health preparedness

The Commission has taken steps to restrict Chinese medical products from being purchased in public contracts, including using the International Procurement Instrument¹. However, recent tenders seem to show inconsistent treatment of Chinese medical gloves.

In some EU Member States, Chinese gloves are permitted under single-product hospital tenders, while they are excluded when gloves are part of multi-product bundled tenders for medical devices.

This raises the question of whether this regulatory fragmentation serves EU hospitals' needs effectively, particularly given recent price increases for medical gloves in the United States following the introduction of similar trade restrictions.

In addition, the Commission, through its Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA), is currently building up strategic stockpiles of medical countermeasures, including medical gloves.

In the light of the above:

1. Why are gloves allowed under single-product tenders but excluded from multi-product bundled tenders for hospitals, and is this distinction the result of EU legislation or Commission guidance?
2. Does the Commission consider this fragmentation and exclusion logical, especially in view of DG HERA's objective to secure affordable stockpiles of essential medical goods?
3. What measures will the Commission take to ensure a coherent procurement and trade policy that supports the resilience and affordability of EU healthcare systems?

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¹ OJ L 173, 30.6.2022, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1031/oj>.