

Question for written answer E-003699/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Huge waste of medicines and failure of the EU strategy to prevent shortages

A study published by *Le Figaro* on 17 September 2025¹ reveals that almost EUR 500 million in medicines are wasted every year in French hospitals, while hundreds of essential medicines are in short supply.

At the same time, a special report issued by the European Court of Auditors² notes that the EU still lacks an effective framework to combat critical shortages, that the European Medicines Agency is still reliant on incomplete data, and that the Commission's legislative proposals are still non-binding and largely theoretical.

This shows the limits of EU intervention in a matter that should pertain exclusively to national sovereignty, especially as problems are often exacerbated by a fragmented single market and the Commission's contradictory requirements.

1. Can the Commission account for the continued failure of its strategy to combat medicine shortages, despite the accumulation of laws, agencies and costly measures?
2. Can it acknowledge that centralising health policies at EU level has harmed efficiency and responsiveness, to Member States' detriment?
3. Is it not time to give Member States full control of their pharmaceutical policies, including the management of stocks, distribution channels and industry relations?

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¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/medicaments-jetes-les-dessous-d-un-gachis-a-500-millions-d-euros-par-an-20250917>

² https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2025-19/SR-2025-19_EN.pdf