

**Question for written answer E-004765/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Tackling medicine shortages in Europe

Medicine shortages have been worsening for many years and were only exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, putting the lives of millions of Europeans at risk. According to the European Medicines Agency, at least 136 critical medicines fell victim to shortages between January 2022 and October 2024. In France, 37 % of our people report having been affected by a medicine shortage in the year 2024, including for essential medicines such as antibiotics, cancer medicines, paediatric treatments and those for chronic illnesses.

Although some of the causes have been identified, such as industrial dependence on non-EU countries, fragile supply chains, concentrated production of raw materials, generic medicines and insufficient stocks, others fail to be taken seriously. The action taken by the EU is, in fact, not commensurate with the stakes.

Does the Commission therefore intend to:

1. ramp up industrial production to reduce dependence on non-EU countries?
2. tighten monitoring of industries in the sector to put an end to their price extortion?
3. strengthen monitoring and prevention tools, and does it intend to create an EU stockpile of medicines?

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