

**Question for written answer E-001602/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Growing medicines shortages and price increases: an acute problem

The imperialist war in the Middle East – a critical transit hub connecting Asia and Europe – is just the ‘tip of the iceberg’ when it comes to persistent medicine shortages. Even before the outbreak of the war, the policies of the EU, national governments and the pharmaceutical industry had brought about tragic consequences, through the increased commercialisation of medicine and health.

The EU’s pharmaceutical strategy is based on maximising the profits of European pharmaceutical companies rather than meeting people’s pharmaceutical needs with adequate research, planning, production and stockpiling.

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

1. What is its position on the dangerous situation faced by millions of patients who are suffering on account of the tragic shortages and high cost of medicine resulting from the US and Israel’s criminal attack on Iran, with the support of the EU, thanks to the Commission’s policies aimed at lining the pockets of European pharmaceutical monopolies at the expense of those suffering, with the risk of the further deterioration of their health?
2. What is its position on the urgent need to control all medicine stocks and prices for the duration of the US-Israeli war in the Middle East, in response to the profiteering games of pharmaceutical companies marked by shortages and high prices?
3. What is its position on the immediate need to produce the necessary quantities of medicines in short supply, at the pharmaceutical companies’ expense, at regulated prices and without further subsidies and concessions from the EU and national governments to the pharmaceuticals industry, which has amassed vast profits – not only during the pandemic but also more generally – by turning medicine into a commodity?

Submitted: 20.4.2026