

**Question for oral answer O-000044/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 142

Stine Bosse

on behalf of the Committee on Public Health

Subject: European response to US pharmaceutical policies: safeguarding patients' access to essential, innovative and life-saving medicines

Recent US pharmaceutical policies threaten both the immediate availability of medicines in Europe and their medium- to long-term affordability. Measures ranging from the most favoured nation (MFN) pricing policy and new US pharmaceutical tariffs and incentives aimed at attracting manufacturing and investment to the United States to the Section 301 investigation into Germany's pharmaceutical pricing policies¹, have created deep uncertainty, leading companies to delay investment and launch decisions.

The MFN policy may discourage or delay the launch of new medicines in certain European markets, particularly where lower national prices could affect US reference prices. This concern is already visible in recent market data: new medicine launches across Europe fell by 35 % in the 10 months following the introduction of MFN pricing². Patients in Member States with lower prices and smaller markets risk being hit hardest, deepening existing inequalities in access.

Instead of remaining fragmented, the EU should use the collective weight of its market of 450 million people as leverage to secure access and attract investment and manufacturing to its territory. Options include streamlining joint clinical assessments under the Health Technology Assessment Regulation³, simplifying and accelerating regulatory procedures, and supporting voluntary cooperation between Member States, including, where appropriate, joint procurement and cooperation on pricing negotiations. To safeguard patients' timely access to medicines, it is essential to strengthen the competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical sector, improve conditions for innovation and investment, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and reinforce resilient European manufacturing capacities.

1. What has the Commission done to assess and respond to the impact of recent US pharmaceutical pricing and trade policies on EU patients and health systems as well as on industry, in particular with regard to medicine launches, investment, research and manufacturing in the EU?
2. Beyond the proposed European Biotech Act and the recently agreed Critical Medicines Act, what concrete regulatory, legal or procedural steps is the Commission taking to anticipate and counter the negative impacts of recent US policies on the availability of, equity of access to and affordability of essential, innovative and life-saving medicines in Europe?

¹ Office of the US Trade Representative, 18 June 2026, <https://ustr.gov/about/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2026/june/ustr-announces-initiation-section-301-investigation-germanys-persistent-underpayment-innovative> (accessed 16 September 2026).

² Pharmaceutical Technology, 25 March 2026, <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/analyst-comment/most-favored-nation-policy-early-insights-into-europe-response/> (accessed 16 September 2026).

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU (OJ L 458, 22.12.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2282/oj>).

3. How will the current and forthcoming EU instruments be used to support Member States, particularly those most exposed to US policies, to ensure patients have timely access to affordable and innovative medicines and to strengthen pharmaceutical innovation, manufacturing capacity, the diversification of supply chains and the security of supply in Europe?

Submitted: 15.10.2026

Lapses: 16.1.2027