

**Priority question for written answer P-002037/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Persistent supply shortages of critical medicinal products in the EU, in particular isotonic saline solution

For years, the EU Member States have faced shortages of important medicines, including antibiotics, insulin, painkillers and syrups lowering fever. In Germany, supply shortages are now even affecting isotonic saline solutions, which are needed for infusions, rinses and surgery, among other things.

The shortage of medicines is a persistent public health problem.

In light of this, the Commission adopted a set of actions in 2023 to address the shortage of medicines and strengthen security of supply in the EU, which included a reform of pharmaceutical legislation.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation in Germany and are other EU Member States also facing a shortage of isotonic saline solution? If so, which, and how big is the deficit in each country and in the EU as a whole?
2. What is the impact of these supply shortages on patients and users and how are prices affected?
3. What precautionary measures and early warning systems does the European Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, have in place in order to prevent shortages or minimise deficits as far as possible?

Submitted: 12.10.2024