

**Priority question for written answer P-003364/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Bernd Lange (S&D)

Subject: Oversight of cross-border mail-order pharmacies and compliance with good distribution practice for medicinal products

In line with Articles 84 and 85b(3) of Directive 2001/83/EC, the Commission guidelines on good distribution practice of medicinal products for human use are intended to ensure the quality and integrity of medicinal products during transport. Suitable storage and temperature conditions are part of this.

The German Government had plans to tighten requirements on the mail-order trade in medicinal products. On 13 April 2026, the Commission expressed reservations that the planned safeguards could disproportionately restrict the free movement of goods. Yet doubts remain as to whether mail-order pharmacies based in other Member States and their logistics providers are being sufficiently monitored.

1. How does the Commission ensure, and how is it effectively monitored, that cross-border mail-order pharmacies and their logistics providers transport medicinal products under suitable storage and temperature conditions throughout the shipping process (including during interim storage and repeated delivery attempts), and maintain their quality and efficacy?
2. What scope does the Commission see for closer cooperation between the German and Dutch regulators, including joint or cross-border inspections to enable effective oversight of compliance with provisions?
3. What is its view on the likelihood of distortions of competition arising if cross-border mail-order pharmacies and their logistics providers are subject to less effective oversight than brick-and-mortar pharmacies and pharmaceutical wholesalers, and what measures does it deem necessary to ensure patient safety and a level playing field?

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