

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003083/25
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(24 July 2025)**

Subject: Crisis preparedness and resilience — stockpiling for CBRN risks, SMEs and market security

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how critical shortages of vaccine-related products, PPE, diagnostics and medicines are for crisis response. In spring 2020, PPE had run out almost everywhere in the world, leading to significant unmet needs. What is more, EU-based companies — in particular SMEs — had to suspend R&D investment, as during the pandemic, one thing became clear: without a secure stockpiling market, they risked massive losses.

The EU stockpiling strategy presented in July 2025 aims to address shortages of medicines, vaccines, PPE and CBRN countermeasures by building a coordinated storage network, targeted stockpiling planning and doubling funding to the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) to EUR 200 million by 2027.

1. So far, how has the Commission come to specific decisions with the Member States as regards the minimum quantities and product types of CBRN-specific countermeasures (antidotes, PPE, vaccines, diagnostics) to be mandatorily stockpiled, and to what extent has innovation by SMEs been explicitly taken into account or effectively disadvantaged owing to exclusion criteria as part of this process?
2. How does the Commission plan to ensure that future EU stockpiling programmes (e.g. through rescEU, HERA) do not only store existing products from large suppliers, but also ensure market access for innovative SME products that are not yet established on the market?

Submitted: 24.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(13 October 2025)**

Stockpiling, including the suggestion of specific quantities, is primarily a competence of the Member States. There is no mandatory stockpiling requirement at EU level.

To support Member States, the Commission regularly organises workshops, focused on specific threats and scenarios, to discuss recommended quantities, authorised products, as well as products under development.

This explicitly includes medical countermeasures from small and medium-sized enterprises. All Member States are invited to these workshops, which take place several times per year, partially in a secure format.

The Commission has developed a priority list of medical countermeasures in collaboration with Member States. It serves as the basis for the last resort rescEU stockpiles of medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. A substantial share of these products were developed and are manufactured by small- and medium-sized EU enterprises.

Once the medical countermeasures preparedness roadmaps for specific health emergency scenarios are established in 2026, the Commission will develop a list of candidate medical countermeasures that could be suitable for advance purchase and inclusion in the EU strategic stockpiles. This list will be based on the methodology of identification outlined in the Medical Countermeasures Strategy ⁽¹⁾

The current rescEU legislation does not cover stockpiling of investigational products or medical countermeasures that are not authorised anywhere in the EU.

Discussions are ongoing among the Commission, Member States and the European Medicines Agency to explore options for including such products in EU strategic reserves if needed.

⁽¹⁾ Annex 2: EU strategic plan for stockpiling of medical countermeasures of the Medical Countermeasures Strategy — https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/preparing-eu-next-health-crisis-medical-countermeasures-strategy_en.