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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.7.2026)

The management of medicines shortages primarily falls under the responsibility of Member States, as national authorities are best placed to assess and address local supply disruptions. When a critical shortage cannot be resolved at the national level, a Member State may report to the European Medicines Agency (EMA), through the Medicine Shortages Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Working Party, for coordination at EU level.

The Commission, in close collaboration with the EMA and the Medicines Shortages Steering Group, which includes representatives from all Member States, actively monitors and addresses shortages escalated to the EU level.

Regarding the specific case of oestrogen, the Commission is not aware of a serious situation that would require EU-level monitoring or intervention. Currently, there are no critical shortages of oestrogen at Union level that have been notified to the European Medicines Agency or that are subject to coordinated action. Should Sweden, or any other Member State, identify a need for EU-wide coordination on this or any other medicine shortage, the established Single Point of Contact working party and the Medicines Shortages Steering Group provide the mechanisms for escalation, collective assessment, and mitigation.