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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(3.9.2026)

The trade defence investigations are fact-based and the Commission's findings are disclosed and become publicly available at provisional and definitive stage in the Official Journal. More broadly, the new Pharmaceutical Regulation<sup>1</sup>, on which co-legislators found a political agreement in December 2025, will provide a robust EU framework for managing critical shortages and identify vulnerabilities in the supply chain of critical medicines, including of dependencies on third countries for their manufacturing. This new regulatory framework will be complemented by the Critical Medicines Act<sup>2</sup> which aims to address upstream supply chain vulnerabilities and offer additional tools to enhance supply security of critical medicines.

To meet the demand for trade defence action, the Commission has opened record numbers of new investigations starting in 2024 and is committed to acting against the injurious effects of unfairly traded imports as quickly as possible. The Office of Complaints<sup>3</sup> of the trade defence services engage with complainants to advise about the information necessary to ensure that draft complaints meet the requisite standards for initiation. Affected industries need to act fast and be properly prepared when presenting draft complaints to the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security (DG TRADE) for assessment to help eliminate delays in the process. The Commission recognises the pivotal role of this sector for the EU and is confident that the recent decision to increase the resources in DG TRADE will have a positive impact.

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<sup>1</sup> Final compromise text of the Directive: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6367-2026-INIT/en/pdf> and the Regulation: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6366-2026-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The Critical Medicines Act text on which the EU Council and Parliament reached a provisional agreement in May 2026 available on the Council website at the following link: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11059-2026-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/contacts/trade-defence-enquiries\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/contacts/trade-defence-enquiries_en).