

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-001187/26
to the Commission
Friedrich Pürner (NI)
(23 March 2026)

Subject: Impact of the escalation of the war in the Middle East on the supply chains of medical products

The escalation of the war in the Middle East has triggered a crisis that goes beyond the energy markets. It has led to the disruption of global air cargo routes, thereby affecting the transport of medical products. The limited alternative routes, high import dependency and concentration of pharmaceutical production are further complicating procurement, driving up prices and thus have an impact on public health. In the interests of democratic accountability, transparency and equal access to vital medicines, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Can the Commission provide detailed and up-to-date information on shortages of medical products and price developments in the Member States and at EU level?
2. Can the Commission provide detailed information on the stocks of medical products stored and procured under HERA ⁽¹⁾, including their origin and the contractual framework for their purchase?
3. What immediate and preventive measures are being taken, in cooperation with the Member States, to ensure security of supply, prevent price increases and address potential distortions in the internal market, including, where appropriate, the use of jointly procured and stored medical products to control prices and ensure access to affordable medicines?

Submitted: 23.3.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2026)

The Commission, in collaboration with the European Medicines Agency and its Medicines Shortages Steering Group, is closely monitoring the situation and potential impact of the conflict in the Middle East on the supply of medical products.

As of mid-April, the situation appears to be stable, with minimal disruption to transport of medicines and no impact on manufacturing capacity. European air cargo companies, including commercial carriers, have indicated to have the capacity to support additional or rerouted medical supplies, if necessary.

The Commission does not hold current data on price developments in the Member States, since the pricing of medicines is a national competence.

However, the Commission is funding the European Integrated Price Information Database (EURIPID) ⁽¹⁾, on which Member States periodically share information on medicine list prices and sales volumes.

Stockpiling of medical products at EU level is being initiated through rescEU which represents a critical component of the EU's strategy to bolster collective preparedness for health emergencies and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

rescEU encompasses medical and CBRN stockpiles hosted across 16 Member States with a total investment exceeding EUR 1.6 billion ⁽²⁾.

Fully integrated into the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), these stockpiles are designed for rapid deployment, underscoring the EU's commitment to swift, coordinated crisis response.

Under the proposed Critical Medicines Act ⁽³⁾, Member States would also have access to different collaborative procurement tools to increase the availability of critical medicines and other medicines of common interest.

¹ The procurement and stockpiling of medical countermeasures (MCMs) is a key area within the mandate of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

⁽¹⁾ The legal framework for the European Integrated Price Information Database consists of the framework partnership Agreement, the General Terms and Conditions to the framework Partnership Agreement of EURIPID Collaboration (GTC) and the Terms and Conditions of Use of the EURIPID Website (TCU). <https://euripid.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019D0570&qid=1730378629745>.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 102 final.