

**Question for written answer E-002281/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Monitoring and control of excessive national stockpiling of medicines

Medicine shortages are a critical issue in the EU. The reasons for these shortages are complex and involve many factors, such as the EU's loss of competitiveness vis-à-vis other markets and a lack of flexibility in regulatory procedures. In light of this situation, some Member States are demonstrating a lack of solidarity by stocking up on medicines to create national stockpiles large enough to cover demand over several months.

National stockpiling is not a solution for these shortages. In fact, it makes inexpensive and low-volume products less viable and creates a false sense of security, as well as making redistribution to other Member States impossible.

The Commission should monitor and regulate the disproportionate national stockpiling of medicines, which poses a risk to the free movement of goods within the EU internal market and to patients' health. The Commission should also actively discourage these practices and even consider imposing sanctions if necessary.

1. What measures will the Commission take to prevent Member States from hoarding medicines? How does the Commission plan to monitor compliance with EU internal market rules?
2. Is the Commission considering imposing sanctions in case of non-compliance?

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