

**Question for written answer E-000010/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Need for diversified, sustainable pain management in the EU to reduce reliance on pharmaceuticals and strengthen supply chains, thus enhancing sustainable healthcare

The overuse of painkillers in the EU poses significant public-health challenges, including risks of dependency, adverse side effects and long-term health complications, highlighting the need for diversified, sustainable pain-management strategies to reduce reliance on pharmaceuticals and strengthen EU supply chains.

In her ‘Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029’, Ursula von der Leyen stated that ‘[t]he EU has been confronted with severe shortages of medical devices and medicines, with antibiotics, insulin, painkillers and other products becoming particularly difficult to obtain’.

1. Can the Commission provide data on how gaps in access to painkillers have been measured and explain how it defines pain management?
2. What measures will the Commission take to improve health literacy on acute and chronic pain management while also advancing the training of the healthcare workforce in modern, patient-centred and holistic approaches to painkiller prescription, in order to reduce misuse, dependency and unnecessary medication intake in society?
3. Given that paracetamol, the most widely used pain management medicine in the EU, is largely imported – over 70 % of its active pharmaceutical ingredients are sourced from outside the EU, primarily from China and India – what specific measures will the Commission take to bolster domestic production of effective pain management alternatives and reduce the EU’s reliance on external suppliers?

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