

**Question for written answer E-000402/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Creon shortages

The Treaties state that health is a fundamental right and that a high level of human health protection must be ensured, but we have been witnessing a constant shortage of medicines for some years now, putting the lives of millions of citizens at risk.

It is often impossible to find medicines such as paracetamol, ibuprofen, antibiotics and amoxicillin. Creon (or Creonipe) has also been on the list for several months. It contains pancreatic enzymes that help those with pancreatic conditions digest food, and unlike almost all other medicines, it has no analogues on the Italian market that can replace it in treating these conditions¹.

In Italy, a petition has also been launched that has already received almost 3 000 signatures, but this is only the latest case².

We cannot allow pancreatic cancer and cystic fibrosis patients to be deprived of essential treatment because of a lack of availability of this medicine.

The Commissioner has repeatedly said that ensuring an uninterrupted supply of medicines is essential for a strong European Health Union.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. Has Creon been placed on the critical medicines list?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to bring about an effective and lasting solution to this shortage?

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¹ <https://www.osservatoriomalattie.it/malattie-rare/fibrosi-cistica/20575-l-allarme-parte-da-fedez-introvabili-gli-enzimi-pancreatici#:~:text=Ricordiamo%20che%20il%20CREON%20%C3%A8,fruibilit%C3%A0%20a%20tutti%20i%20pazienti.%E2%80%9D>

² <https://www.change.org/p/richiediamo-la-regolare-produzione-e-distribuzione-del-farmaco-creon-10000>