

Article – Medicine shortages in the EU: causes and solutions



Parliament had already called for better traceability of research and development costs, public funding and market expenditure to make medicines more affordable in a [resolution adopted in 2017](#).

The [Commission issued guidelines](#) to tackle shortages due to the coronavirus outbreak in April. It called on member states to lift export bans and avoid stockpiling; increase and reorganise production; ensure optimal use in hospitals by reallocating stocks; consider alternative medicines; and optimise sales in pharmacies.

EU pharmaceutical strategy

The report calls on the Commission to address the issue of medicine availability and accessibility and import dependency in the upcoming [EU pharmaceutical strategy](#).

It is expected to propose measures to help improve and accelerate access to safe and affordable medicines, support innovation in the EU pharmaceutical industry, fill market gaps (for example [new antimicrobials](#)) and reduce direct dependence on raw materials from non-EU countries.

Next steps

MEPs are expected to vote on the report during the September plenary session.