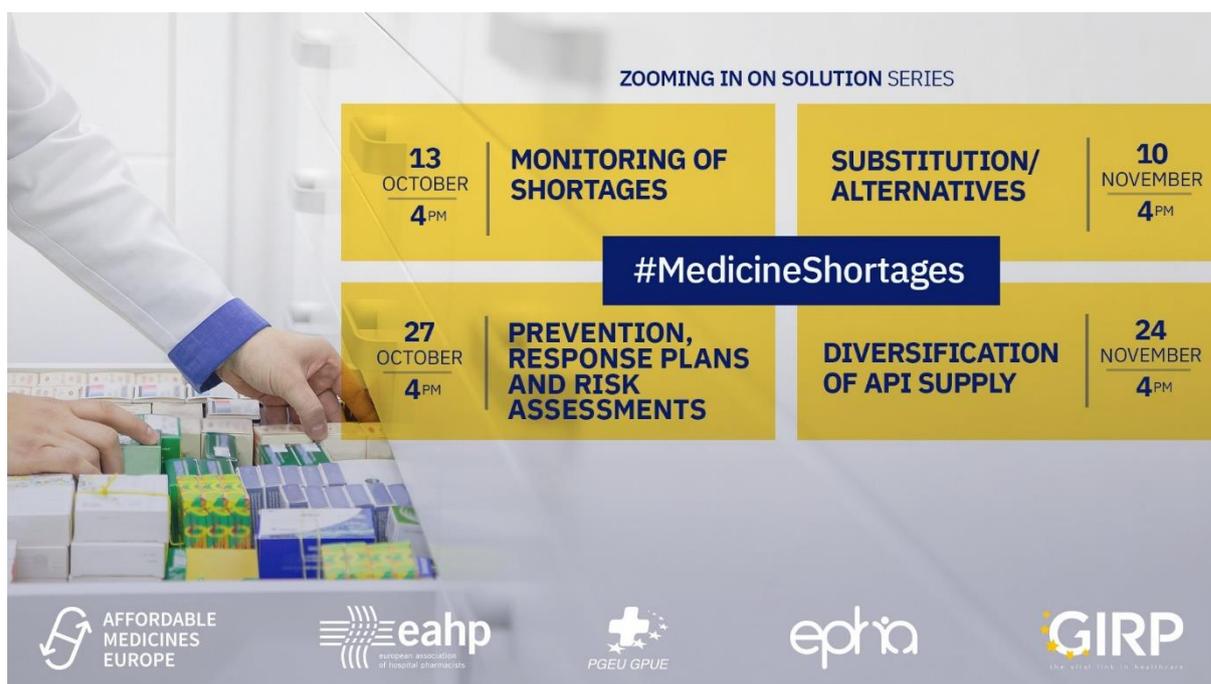


Zooming in on solutions event series summary



13 October 2020

Zooming in on monitoring shortages

In the European Union, medicine shortages are posing an ever more serious problem. In a direct and immediate way, shortages mean that all of us could one day face a time when we cannot access the medicine we need. If left untreated in the long-term, shortages could bring serious problems for public health on our continent.

Up until this moment, Member States have largely been left to tackle the issue of shortages all on their own, often without the proper resources to do so. Now, it is clearer than ever that this problem must be addressed at the pan-European, even global level with coordination and efficiency as the spearheads.

With all this in mind and with the aim of responding to the problem of shortages, a coalition of entities comprised of [PGEU](#), [EPHA](#), [EAHP](#), [GIRP](#), and [Affordable Medicines Europe](#) decided to convene a series of four virtual webinar events we are calling, “Zoom in on Solutions.” GIRP hosted the first event in the series on October 13th, which was entitled Zoom in on Monitoring Shortages.

During our “Zoom in on Monitoring Shortages event, we were proud to welcome an excellent group of experts on the topic of medicine shortages. Our panel included:

- [Kristin Raudsepp](#), Director General, Estonian State Agency of Medicines; Co-chair, EMA/HMA Task Force on the Availability of Authorised Medicines for Human and Veterinary Use who delivered the introductory remarks.

- [Monika Derecque-Pois](#), Director General, European Healthcare Distribution Association (GIRP) who discussed a root cause analysis of shortages in a nutshell.
- [Sonia Ruiz Moran](#), Director of International Affairs, General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain , who presented CISMED, the Spanish shortage monitoring system setup by pharmacists and twinning projects between Spain, Italy, Portugal and France.
- [Miguel Valdés](#), Director General, FEDIFAR (Spain) , who spoke about service level indicators from full-service healthcare distributors.
- [Michael Dammann](#), General Manager, PHAGRO (Germany), who discussed availability notifications from full-service healthcare distributors.
- [Per Troein](#), Vice President Strategic Partners, IQVIA , who spoke about criteria for an effective shortage monitoring system
- [MEP Dr. Cristian Busoi](#), Chair, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), European Parliament.

In her introductory remarks, Kristin Raudsepp emphasized the fact that Europe needs a better monitoring system in place if medicine shortages are to be avoided and also covered some of the key achievements of the Estonian State Agency of Medicines. In addition, she remarked that:



One feature of the event was virtual polls, during which participants could make their voices heard on various topics. One poll asked if, as a first step, we should harmonise the criteria for the root causes of shortages across member states, to which an overwhelming majority of 97% of respondents answered “yes.” Another poll showed more mixed opinions. When asked which of the following supply chain partners should participate in the shortages monitoring system, this is how participants responded:



Sonia Ruiz Moran's made an important point during her presentation:

ZOOM IN ON **MONITORING OF SHORTAGES** 13 OCTOBER
#MedicineShortages



Sonia Ruiz Moran
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL
COUNCIL OF SPAIN

IT IS IMPORTANT TO SCALE UP THE INFORMATION AT A SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL, BECAUSE THIS IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM AND THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES WANT TO HAVE THE BIGGER PICTURE.





Per Troein added to the importance of pan-European knowledge and information sharing:

ZOOM IN ON **MONITORING OF SHORTAGES** 13 OCTOBER
#MedicineShortages



Per Troein
VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC
PARTNERS, IQVIA

THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT VALUE INTO KNOWING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OTHER MARKETS.





This virtual event focused on solutions to the problem of medicine shortages, and thus, much of the discussion dealt with how policy and practice can be adjusted so that this problem can be mitigated.

Michael Dammann presented the system Phagro is developing with the German Medicines Agency, BfArM, to support the medicines agency in identifying shortages or threat of in ICU products throughout the COVID-19 crisis. He demonstrated how changes of medicines' availability on wholesale level are a very good indicator of existing, threatening or decreasing shortages.

ZOOM IN ON **MONITORING OF SHORTAGES** 13
OCTOBER

Michael Dammann
GENERAL MANAGER,
PHAGRO

“ WE DEVELOPED A TOOL THAT INDICATES THREATENING OR EXISTING SHORTAGES OF MEDICINES USED BY COVID-19 PATIENTS IN INTENSIVE CARE. ”

#MedicineShortages

Miguel Valdés also presented the service level system implemented by the full-line wholesalers in Spain :

ZOOM IN ON **MONITORING OF SHORTAGES** 13
OCTOBER

Miguel Valdés
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
FEDIFAR

“ SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE QUANTITIES RECEIVED IN THE WHOLESALERS WAREHOUSES CAN HAVE, IN A FEW WEEKS, AN IMPACT ON SERVICE LEVELS TO PHARMACIES. ”

#MedicineShortages

As MEP Dr. Cristian Busoi noted in his address, the causes of medicine shortages and the solutions that could mitigate them are certainly complicated. But as he pointed out, his policymaker colleagues acknowledge that this problem is one that needs addressing:



Cristian Busoi

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON
INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND
ENERGY (ITRE), EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



GIRP



“

*I BELIEVE MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES TODAY
ACKNOWLEDGE THIS EQUATION BETTER
AND UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MEDICINE
SHORTAGES SITUATION IS COMPLEX.*

#MedicineShortages

”

I warmly invite you to check our analysis on root causes of medicines shortages from publicly available sources in European countries.

http://girp.eu/sites/default/files/documents/causes_of_supply_disruptions_across_europe_april_2020.pdf

I strongly believe in the importance of working together as a group of stakeholders, and that finding a bottom-up approach with a system of signals to catch potential shortages as soon as possible from everyone along the supply chain is essential. Furthermore, collaboration with EU institutions is crucial, so that reporting can be harmonised across Europe. These two steps are where we should start when it comes to addressing medicine shortages.

27 October 2020

Zooming in on response plans and risk assessments

On 27 October, EAHP hosted the second webinar of a series of events zooming in on solutions to medicine shortages in Europe that are being organised in collaboration with Affordable Medicines Europe, EPHA, GIRP and PGEU. This time around, the event focused on how best to prevent medicine shortages through the establishment of response plans and risk assessments.

More than ever, medicine shortages present a significant challenge to everyone living in Europe. It should never be the case that patients can't access the medicines they depend on. Over the last two events, and the next two that will follow, the host organisations are creating a platform on which solutions to this essential problem can be discussed.

As usual, this last event was held virtually and included a diverse group of speakers and participants. We were delighted to welcome the following experts on medicine shortages to our event:

1. Piera Polidori, the Director of the Clinical Pharmacy Department, Mediterranean Institute for Transplantation and Advanced Specialized Therapies & Director of Professional Development, European Association of Hospital Pharmacists. Piera presented the opening remarks.
2. Nenad Miljković, Head of Hospital Pharmacy Services, Institute of Orthopaedics Banjica & Director of Finance, European Association of Hospital Pharmacists, who reflected on the European perspective of prospective risk assessments.
3. Brian Godman, Visiting Professor, University of Strathclyde, Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, who spoke about prospective risk assessments at the international level.
4. Charlotte Roffiaen, EU Advocacy Advisor, France Assos Santé, who discussed the patient perspective on prevention and management plans in France.
5. Serri Traoré, Hospital Pharmacist, Ramsay Santé Hôpital privé La Louvière, who delivered the hospital pharmacy perspective on prevention and management plans in France.
6. MEP Manuel Pizarro, who shared his views on the potential of prospective risk assessments and prevention/response plans for mitigating shortages.

During her introductory remarks, Piera Polidori made the important point that a large majority of hospital pharmacists do not carry out risk assessments in case of a shortage. Furthermore, she discussed how essential it is to adopt measures that can anticipate and resolve drug shortages:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS | 27

OCTOBER



Piera Polidori

DIRECTOR OF THE CLINICAL
PHARMACY DEPARTMENT,
EAHP

“

THE REACTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS AFTER THE DRUG SHORTAGE ARE IMPORTANT. BUT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT CAN ANTICIPATE AND RESOLVE A PROBLEM OF DRUG SHORTAGE - THE PROACTIVE MEASURES.

#MedicineShortages

”



Nenad Miljković made some excellent points in his speech on how to understand medicine shortages and react to them before they take place:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS | 27

OCTOBER



Nenad Miljković

HEAD OF HOSPITAL PHARMACY
SERVICES,
EAHP

“

TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SHORTAGE, THE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES, THE THERAPEUTIC USE, AND TRY TO PROACTIVELY DETECT RISKS. DESCRIBE THEM, PRIORITISE THEM.

#MedicineShortages

”



Brian Godman began his talk by making the point that there are still some concerns about the lack of medicine use policies and or activities in some countries. He went on to discuss what is being done in his sphere about distribution processes:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS | 27
OCTOBER



Brian Godman

VISITING PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY
OF STRATHCLYDE

“ WE ARE TRYING TO PUT IN PLACE A PROACTIVE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS, TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGES THAT WE SEE AND PROACTIVELY MOVE FORWARD. ”

#MedicineShortages



When Charlotte Roffiaen took the virtual stage, she began by making the important point that the immediate problem of the system is that the content of the prevention plans used in France is not yet sufficiently accessible to the public. She also gave some good insight into patient expectations:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS | 27
OCTOBER



Charlotte Roffiaen

EU ADVOCACY ADVISOR,
FRANCE ASSOS SANTÉ

“ PATIENTS EXPECT SHORTAGE PREVENTION PLANS TO BE TRANSPARENT, TO HAVE A EUROPE-WIDE SCOPE AND TO INCLUDE ADEQUATE STOCK LEVELS. ”

#MedicineShortages



This virtual event included several polls, which enabled attendees to make their voices heard on various topics. The first poll asked whether risk assessments are a good tool to reduce the likelihood of patient harm, to which the respondents indicated overwhelmingly “yes.” The second poll posed the following question:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

27
OCTOBER

#MedicineShortages

SHOULD SHORTAGE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS:

HAVE A NATIONAL SCOPE?

24%

COVER ALL EU COUNTRIES IN WHICH A MEDICINE IS COMMERCIALISED?

76%



As you can see, most of the event attendees responded by saying it should cover all EU countries in which a medicine is commercialized.

Serri Traoré picked up on the remarks of the previous speaker. He revealed that management plans contribute to increasing the awareness of shortages but are not fully effective. He also explained that:

PREVENTION, RESPONSE PLANS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

27
OCTOBER



Serri Traoré

RAMSAY SANTÉ HÔPITAL
PRIVÉ LA LOUVIÈRE

“

THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE A NATIONAL MEASURE. HOWEVER, THE MEDICATION PROTOCOLS ARE DIFFERENT FROM ONE HOSPITAL TO ANOTHER, SO LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE NEEDED IN ADDITION.

#MedicineShortages

”



Our final speaker was MEP Manuel Pizarro who made the essential point that 10 or 15 years ago, the problem with medicine shortages was nowhere near what it is today. He also added that:



Manuel Pizarro

MEP

“

SOMETHING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS TEACHING US ALL IS THAT WE REALLY NEED EUROPEAN STRATEGIES ON HEALTH ISSUES.

#MedicineShortages

”



To conclude this second virtual event, Piera Polidori delivered several summary remarks. She stressed the importance of risk assessments and response plans as a great tool to proactively address medicine shortages, one that can significantly reduce the problem and make the lives of patients and healthcare professionals better. She added that these assessments and plans, however, are not yet common practice in health care systems around Europe. Thus, she pointed out, it is time that policymakers, the public sector, and industry work together to increase the reach of them.

If you would like to watch the full event and get all the details and nuances of this essential conversation, click [here](#).

10 November 2020

Zooming in on medicine shortages at community pharmacies

On November 10th, PGEU hosted a virtual event that delved into the problem of medicine shortages at community pharmacies. The event, which was part of the ongoing “zooming in on solutions” series, brought together a group of experts from industry, government and more to discuss the problem and, more importantly, to seek solutions so that shortages can become a thing of the past.

Medicine shortages have long been a concerning problem in Europe. Where they affect individual Europeans in the most immediate way is at local pharmacies, which people of all sorts and backgrounds rely on to get everything from essential prescriptions to simple cold medications and everything in between. The fact that pharmacies lack certain stock on a regular basis is a troubling fact on which a light must be shone, and solutions sought.

The PGEU event on the 10th came together to address these exact issues in an actionable and long-term way. At the core of the event was the panel, which included the following people:

- Duarte Santos, PGEU’s President, who delivered introductory remarks.
- Kristin Raudsepp, Director General, Estonian State Agency of Medicines, Co-chair Task Force on the Availability of Authorised Medicines for Human and Veterinary Use, who discussed monitoring shortages.
- Sonia Ruiz Moran, Director of International Affairs, General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain, who covered the twinning project on shortages.
- Madeleine Sirks of the Royal Dutch Pharmaceutical Association (KNMP), who discussed managing shortages in pharmacy practice in the Netherlands.
- Charlotte Roffiaen, EU Advocacy Advisor, France Assos Santé, who covered the impact of medicine shortages on patients.
- Bernard Celli, the Head of Inspections, French Medicines Agency (ANSM), who presented the perspective of the national competent authorities.
- Ilaria Passarani, PGEU’s Secretary General, who gave closing remarks.

Duarte Santos got the event started, covering important points such as the fact that community pharmacists can be part of the solution to shortages and how PGEU is committed to doing what is needed to respond to the needs of people, to avoid disruption of treatment, and to rid inefficiency in the healthcare system. Furthermore, he added that:

**Duarte Santos**

PGEU PRESIDENT

“

IN PGEU WE TOTALLY BELIEVE THAT PHARMACISTS CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR THE ONES THAT MATTER MOST: THE PATIENTS.

#MedicineShortages

”



Kristin Raudsepp, of the Estonian State Agency of Medicines, encouraged all parties to take an active role, propose solutions, and influence procedures if they see that something is going wrong or is dangerous for public health. She additionally pointed out that:

**Kristin Raudsepp**

DIRECTOR GENERAL, ESTONIAN STATE AGENCY OF MEDICINES; CO-CHAIR, EMA-HMA TASK FORCE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTHORISED MEDICINES FOR HUMAN AND VETERINARY USE

“

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR PHARMACIST TODAY IS THAT IT IS OUT OF OUR HANDS TO HELP WITH THE ROOTCAUSES OF THE SHORTAGES.

#MedicineShortages

”



Sonia Ruiz Moran, of the Spanish General Council of Pharmacists, made some excellent points on how to detect and anticipate medicine shortages, including:



Sonia Ruiz Moran

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SPANISH GENERAL COUNCIL OF PHARMACISTS

“

SHORTAGES MONITORING SYSTEMS FROM PHARMACIES ARE NEEDED TO DETECT AND ANTICIPATE, TOGETHER WITH INDUSTRY AND WHOLESALERS. THERE IS NO OTHER BEST WAY.

#MedicineShortages

”



As with the first two events in this series, several poll questions were posed, giving the audience a chance to voice their opinions and engage in a hands-on way. When asked about which measures should be prioritized to reduce the negative impact of occurring medicine shortages on patients and healthcare professionals, the audience was split between improving information sharing, widening the legal scope, and “all of the above,” which included compensating any negative financial impact. Here is the question and responses to the second poll:

#MedicineShortages

WHICH ARE THE MAIN REMAINING BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE SHORTAGES IN HEALTHCARE PRACTICE AT NATIONAL LEVEL?



Madeleine Sirks, of the Royal Dutch Pharmaceutical Association, argued that several ways of seeking solutions are actively following the news media, reaching out to government, and participating in national working groups. She also added that:

ZOOMING IN ON **MANAGING SHORTAGES AT COMMUNITY PHARMACIES** | **10** |
NOVEMBER



“

INFORMATION ON SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEDICINE SHORTAGES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL IN ALL MEMBER STATES.

”

#MedicineShortages

Madeleine Sirks
KNMP, LABORATORIUM DER NEDERLANDSE APOTHEKERS (LNA)



Charlotte Roffiaen, of France Assos Santé, noted that the stakes of shortages are high. She explained that the most important consequences of shortages are disease progression, worsening of symptoms, and increased exposure to falsified medicines. She also added that:

**Charlotte Roffiaen**EU ADVOCACY ADVISOR,
FRANCE ASSOS SANTE

“

THE CONSEQUENCES IMPACT THE PATIENTS' CARE AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, AS WELL AS THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

#MedicineShortages

”



Bernard Celli, of the French Medicines Agency, made the important point that the root causes of shortages include breaks in production, a lack of raw materials or packaging products, insufficient production capacities, and non-conformities or significant deviations. He also mentioned that:

**Bernard Celli**HEAD OF INSPECTIONS,
FRENCH MEDICINES AGENCY
(ANSM)

“

WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST MEDICINE SHORTAGES, USING ALL THE TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL.

#MedicineShortages

”



For the concluding remarks, Ilaria Passarani of PGEU, pointed out that instead of spending many hours per week dealing with shortages, pharmacists should be able to do what they are meant to be doing: providing high quality care to their patients. She also reiterated the point

that pharmacies should continue to be involved in the monitoring and reporting of shortages, though it is also important that they themselves receive timely information on shortages so they can do their work effectively. She ended by calling for action, given the strains that COVID19 and Brexit are having on shortages.

If you wish to watch the full event and get all the details and nuances of this essential conversation, [click here](#).

24 November 2020

Zooming in on the diversification of medicine production

On November 24th, Affordable Medicines Europe hosted the fourth of the series of events to zoom in on solutions to medicine shortages in Europe, organized with the supply chain stakeholders, GIRP, PGEU, and EAHP. This time around, the event focused on how best to diversify the process of medicine production. This event served as the final one in the series for the year 2020.

As this series of events has established, medicine shortages in Europe pose a serious and continuously growing problem. This supply chain stakeholders believes the best way to move forward is to zoom in on solutions that include all stakeholders and work with the sole aim of ensuring that patients around this continent never have to worry about getting the medicines they need.

As usual, the event was held virtually, and included a diverse group of speakers and participants. We were delighted to welcome the following experts on medicine shortages to our event:

1. Svens Henkuzens, Head of Latvian Medicines Agency
2. Kasper Ernest, Secretary General of Affordable Medicines Europe
3. Jutta Paulus, Member of the European Parliament
4. Marieke van Dalen, APIC Board member
5. Christian Sautter, Global Flexibility Manager / Supply Planning, Bayer Consumer Care, Basel
6. Maurizio Battistini, VP at EIPG
7. Agnes Mathieu-Mendez, Deputy Head of Unit at DG SANTE

→ To watch the event in full, click here for a recording.

→ Though this was the last event of the series this year, we will be holding similar events in the future! Follow us on [Twitter](#) to stay in the loop.

The event began with opening remarks from Svens Henkuzens, of the Latvian Medicines Agency. One important point Svens made was that among EMA Network's goals regarding supply chain challenges is to analyse the possible implications of new manufacturing technologies and to adapt the regulatory framework to accommodate innovation in manufacturing and the distribution of medicinal products for human and veterinary use. He followed up by adding:



Svens Henkuzens

HEAD OF LATVIAN MEDICINES
AGENCY

“

THE NEW EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCIES NETWORK STRATEGY IS COMMITTED TO RESPOND TO GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES.

#MedicineShortages

”



Kasper Ernest of Affordable Medicines Europe then took the virtual stage to explain the thinking behind why this particular theme was chosen, saying, “We thought it would be interesting to look into what the potential driving forces behind this issue are, in order to understand the complexity around the supply chain.” He further added that:



Kasper Ernest

SECRETARY GENERAL OF
AFFORDABLE MEDICINES
EUROPE

“

WE NEED TO LOOK WITH OPEN EYES HOW WE IMPROVE EUROPEAN MEDICINE SUPPLY RESILIENCE – DIVERSIFICATION IS A KEY WORD IN THAT CONTEXT.

#MedicineShortages

”



After Kasper Ernest, MEP Jutta Paulus made several points, including her belief that there are multiple reasons for medicine shortages, which means solutions for them require a

coordinated involvement of all the stakeholders across the supply chain. “We need a holistic approach,” she said. She also added that:

ZOOMING IN ON THE **DIVERSIFICATION OF MEDICINE PRODUCTION** **24**
NOVEMBER



Jutta Paulus
MEP

“ WE NEED A MUCH BETTER MONITORING SYSTEM INVOLVING ALL STAKEHOLDERS, WHOLESALERS, SUPPLIERS, PARALLEL TRADE, AS WELL AS THE DOWNSTREAM, AS THEY CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE INPUT. **”**

#MedicineShortages



Marieke van Dalen of the APIC delivered the next remarks, pointing out that in her view, “We should have a stricter approach, so that we are sure about what is happening in the world and about where exactly the dangers are coming from.” Furthermore, she added that:

ZOOMING IN ON THE **DIVERSIFICATION OF MEDICINE PRODUCTION** **24**
NOVEMBER



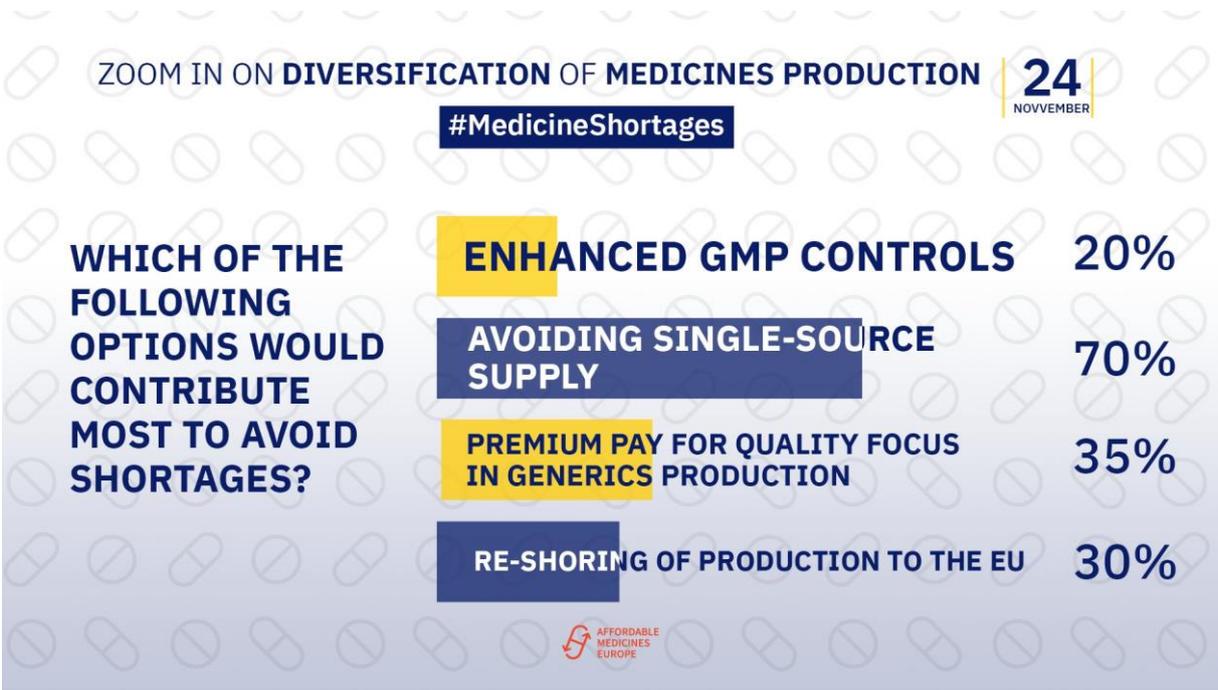
Marieke van Dalen
APIC BOARD MEMBER

“ EUROPE IS DEPENDENT ON CHINA AND INDIA FOR THEIR PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN, INCLUDING HEALTHCARE CRITICAL PRODUCTS. **”**

#MedicineShortages



As always, this virtual event included several polls, which enabled attendees to make their voices heard on various topics. One interesting poll was this one below, which posed the question: which of the following options would contribute most to avoiding medicine shortages? Have a look at how participants responded:



Christian Sautter of Bayer Consumer Care gave the next speech. He explained that while the COVID pandemic has brought along with it some challenges, it has also highlighted many areas within the product supply chain that are generally working well and robustly. He also added that:



Christian Sautter

GLOBAL FLEXIBILITY MANAGER /
SUPPLY PLANNING AT BAYER
CONSUMER CARE, BASEL

“

EVERYONE ASSUMES THEIR GOODS WILL ARRIVE ON-TIME, BUT COVID-19 CREATED GLOBAL AMBIGUITY, IMBALANCE AND SHORTAGES ON THE TRANSPORTATION MARKET. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1ST WAVE AND ONSET OF THE 2ND IN EUROPE, COMPANIES EVERYWHERE ARE NOW FOCUSED ON RESILIENCE AND RESPONSIVENESS.

#MedicineShortages

”



Following Christian Sautter was Maurizio Battistini, of EIPG, who began by explaining that in his view, “pharmaceutical companies, like any other for-profit industry, function within capitalist economic structures, and it is their job to produce safe and effective medical treatments and return value to shareholders.” He also added that:



Maurizio Battistini

VP AT EIPG

“

DRUG SHORTAGE COULD BE AN ISSUE BUT ESSENTIAL MEDICINE DEFICIENCY IS A DISASTER. A RISK EVALUATION APPROACH FOUNDED ON THIS PRINCIPLE SHOULD LEAD TO AN EFFICACE DRUG SHORTAGE PREVENTION.

#MedicineShortages

”



The final speaker was Agnes Mathieu-Mendez of DG SANTE, who said that “We need to have a stricter dialogue between all actors in the supply chain, so as to map out the

vulnerabilities of the process and not be dependent on one factor.” She furthermore added that:

ZOOMING IN ON THE **DIVERSIFICATION OF MEDICINE PRODUCTION** **24**
NOVEMBER

Agnes Mathieu-Mendez
DEPUTY HEAD OF UNIT IN DG
SANTE

“ THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS DETERMINED TO TACKLE THE LONG-TERM ISSUE OF MEDICINE SHORTAGES AND ACCESSIBILITY. **”**

#MedicineShortages

**AFFORDABLE
MEDICINES
EUROPE**

To conclude this fourth virtual event, Kasper Ernest of Affordable Medicines Europe gave a recap of the entire series and the essential discussions that took place. Kasper mentioned the reason this series came to be, explaining the vision of bringing together a group of experts to dig down and discuss the complexity of medicine shortages, to consider various solutions, and to determine which viable tools industry, government, and other stakeholders have at their disposal. Over the course of the events, during which experts from all sides of this issue discussed risk assessments, issues of competition, response plans, community pharmacies, and diversification, Kasper believes that this series achieved the goal it set out to accomplish.

If you would like to watch the full event and get all the details and nuances of this essential conversation, [click here](#). This was the final event for the year 2020. Stay tuned on social media for new events in the new year!