Public consultation on pharmaceuticals in the environment

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

About this consultation

This consultation is part of a study aimed at supporting the development of a European Union (EU) strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment, and in turn at helping the EU achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 6 ("Clean Water and Sanitation"), as well as objectives in EU legislation such as the "good status" objective in the Water Framework Directive. Adoption of the approach is to be followed by proposals for specific measures, as appropriate, which would be subject, as necessary, to full impact assessment.

Pharmaceuticals can enter the environment during their production, use and disposal. The need for a strategic approach has been prompted by concern about risks to the environment itself, and possibly to human health via the environment. Any actions to address those risks must also ensure that humans and animals can continue to benefit from the appropriate use of pharmaceuticals and that the competitiveness of EU healthcare systems is maintained.

This consultation aims to collect feedback and further information from stakeholders on their perception of the problem, the need for action, and on some of the actions that could be prioritised.

A **background paper**, provided with this questionnaire, describes 30 possible policy options grouped into 10 action areas. These have been identified on the basis of a review of the recent literature and preliminary consultation of stakeholders. You may wish to read the summary of the paper, or the paper itself, before answering the questions, but this is not essential.

Your responses will help the European Commission (EC) to formulate the strategic approach and prioritise areas for action. Thank you in advance.

Important note on the publication of answers

Please note that the responses received will be published on the EC's website, together with the identity of the contributor unless the contributor objects to the publication of personal data.

*1. Please indicate your preference as regards publication of your contribution

- My contribution may be published, mentioning my name or the name of my organisation as well as country of residence
- My contribution may be published anonymously

Please note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under <u>Regulation (EC) N°1049/2001</u>. Please also read the specific privacy statement referred to on the consultation webpage.

About the respondent

2. Are you replying as:
An individual
An EU institution
A national/regional/local public authority
A company
A business or workers' organisation
 An NGO, environmental or consumer group
A research organisation
Other
If other, please specify:
3a. Please state your name or the name of your organisation (published)
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3a. Please state your name or the name of your organisation (anonymous)
Sa. Flease state your fiame or the fiame or your organisation (anonymous)
3b. Please provide your email address (Please note that your email address will not be published
regardless of the option chosen in question 1)
A le vour company
4. Is your company:A large company (250 employees and over)
A medium-sized company (50 to 249 employees)
A small company (10 to 49 employees)
A micro-company (less than 10 employees)
5. How many members does your organisation or group represent?
6. Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission? © Yes
○ No

^ /. Pl	ease enter the identification number
	hat is your main field of activity or main area of expertise or interest?
	Pharmaceuticals
	Human healthcare (including pharmacy)
	Veterinary care (including veterinary pharmacy)
	Water and waste water management
	Waste management
	Other
	No specific relevant expertise
* If oth	ner, please specify:
250 0	character(s) maximum
	hat is your main country of residence or activities? (published)
	Austria
	Belgium
	Bulgaria
	Croatia
	Cyprus
	Czech Republic
	Denmark
	Estonia
	Finland
	France
	Germany
	Greece
	Hungary
	Ireland
	Italy
	Latvia
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Other	9					
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General questions on the issue

Awareness of the issue

500 character(s) maximum

*10. How would you describe your level of awareness of the issue of pharmaceuticals and the environment?
Nil (It hasn't been on my/our radar until now)
✓ Low (I/we have heard a bit about it)
Moderate (I/we have heard a fair amount about it)
High (I/we have been looking at it in detail)
High (I/we have been looking at it in detail)
*11. What has made you aware of the issue of pharmaceuticals and the environment? (Please mark
all that apply.)
Seeing this consultation
Reports in the press, on television or social media
Campaign material from organisations such as NGOs
✓ Work
Information from pharmacist/doctor/dentist/hospital/vet
Talking with friends/family
Other
*If other, please specify:
500 character(s) maximum
*12. Has awareness of the issue made you do any of the following? (Please mark all that apply.)
Start taking unused medicines to the pharmacy (if you were not already)
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 ✓ Start taking unused medicines to the pharmacy (if you were not already) ✓ Stop flushing unused pharmaceuticals down the sink or toilet ☐ Talk to your pharmacist or doctor about the issue ☐ Talk to friends or family about the issue ☐ Change your consumption of over-the-counter (non-prescribed) medicines
 Start taking unused medicines to the pharmacy (if you were not already) Stop flushing unused pharmaceuticals down the sink or toilet Talk to your pharmacist or doctor about the issue Talk to friends or family about the issue
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Finding the right balance between availability and affordability of medicines, and environmental friendly design and manufacturing. Packaging according to individual needs can also be a way to avoid wrongly dispensed unused medicines.

Relative importance of actions

A) For human pharmaceuticals

Necessary but not urgent

Not necessary

*15. How do you see the need for actions (including research) to address the risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment?

	Urgent
	No opinion
B) F	or veterinary pharmaceuticals
	Not necessary
	Necessary but not urgent
	Urgent
	No opinion
lf yc	ou wish to, please explain your answer:
1500	O character(s) maximum
16. l	Please give each of the twelve possible actions below a score between 5 and 0, where 5 = high

16. Please give each of the twelve possible actions below a score between 5 and 0, where 5 = high priority action, 3 = medium priority action, 1 = low priority action, 0 = not in favour). All actions must be scored. *Please note that the actions have been numbered to indicate which action areas they relate to in the background document, but are in most cases more specific.*

	5	4	3	2	1	0
*1. More research to better understand the risks	0	0	V	0	0	0
*2. "Greener" design of pharmaceuticals, e.g. to make them more biodegradable	0	Ø	0	0	0	0
*3. More stringent conditions for putting a pharmaceutical on the market	0	•	0	0	0	0
*4. Cleaner manufacturing	Ø	0	0	0	0	0
*5. Better risk mitigation, e.g. not allowing over-the-counter sale of pharmaceuticals that pose an environmental risk	0	•	0	0	0	©
*6. Better/more thorough post-market monitoring of pharmaceuticals in the environment and feedback to the regulatory process	0	*	0	0	0	0
*7. (a) Better training for medical professionals, e.g. about pharmaceuticals that are less harmful for the environment	Ø	0	0	0	0	0

	*7. (b) Better information for the public, e.g. about how to dispose of unused medicines	Ø	0	0	0	0	0
	*7. (c) Smaller packaging sizes, to reduce unnecessary waste /disposal	0	Ø	0	0	0	0
	*8. Improved handling of waste pharmaceuticals	Ø	0	0	0	0	0
	*9. (a) Improved sewage and wastewater treatment	0	Ø	0	0	0	0
	*9. (b) Improvements in livestock farming to reduce the use /emission of pharmaceuticals	V	0	0	0	0	0
_	ou wish to, please explain your scoring or add brief comme	ents on	the lis	sted a	ctions	, referi	ring
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	nethods through patient organisations can be of great added-value						
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If you wish to submit additional documentation (up to three pages), please upload your file here.