



CIBUK - PRESS RELEASE

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Patients suffer chronic lack of vital medicines....

But this isn't Brexit, this is the EU



The problems facing the EU's largest economy continue to mount for Germany's post-Merkel government. The latest difficulties are now affecting the health of the nation.

The Germans are not only running out of energy supplies and essential electronic components used in manufacturing, they are now also seeing chronic shortages of vital medicines in the country's pharmacies.

It seems that the German pharmaceutical industry has three main problems. Firstly there is a shortage of skilled workers, secondly there are supply chain problems, and thirdly there are fast-rising production costs.

CIBUK (<https://cibuk.org/>) – the longest-established organisation for independence, freedom and democracy in the UK – highlights another challenge for the EU's largest economy, as its pharma industry struggles to maintain supplies. The summary is below and the [full report is now available here](#).

The report below has been produced in association with our affiliated organisation and research think tank, [Facts4EU.Org](https://facts4eu.org/).

Commenting, CIBUK's Comms Director, Ben Philips, said:

“The problems just seem to keep mounting up for our German friends. Imagine the news if this were happening in the UK. We can easily imagine the narrative on the BBC, Sky News or ITN.

*‘Shortage of skilled workers’? - Due to Brexit
‘Supply chain problems’? - Due to Brexit
‘Rapidly rising production costs’? - Due to Brexit*

Instead, this is a German problem within the EU, so naturally readers are unlikely to come across this news on their TV screens.

*Early on Monday 25 July 2022 CIBUK’s affiliated organisation, the think tank Facts4EU.Org, accessed the database of Germany’s ‘Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices’ (BfArM) for “Published delivery bottleneck notifications” and there were **281 listings**.*

*They include **common antibiotics, thyroid medicines, blood pressure reducers, and also other medicines that are urgently required in hospitals.**”*

From paracetamol to essential cancer drugs, chemists’ shelves are emptying

In Berlin and across Germany pharmacists are struggling to maintain supplies of some essential medicines.

As we all know, children normally build up their immune systems through exposure to viruses and infections in their peer group and through the population at large. As a result of strict Covid measures, however, this hasn’t happened in the last two years due to compulsory face masks and social distancing.

Now that these restrictions have been relaxed, parents are seeing an upsurge in colds, fevers, and respiratory diseases in their children. This is therefore a particularly bad time for these parents to find the shelves at pharmacies empty of basic medicines such as paracetamol for young children.

And it shows no sign of improving any time soon

One pharmacist in Berlin told German state broadcaster Deutsche Welle :

“What we’re seeing is that all contracts for anti-pain and anti-fever medications for kids have been cancelled.”

This is not only affecting children's health but also adults with life-threatening illnesses

This problem is not only confined to common drugs such as paracetamol and ibuprofen – and it's not confined to the very young.

For example, one essential drug in the treatment of both **early-stage and advanced breast cancer** became increasingly scarce in Germany since January this year. Unfortunately there is no substitute so this was a very serious problem indeed. The German agency responsible has now had to authorise the importation of this drug.

Why is all this happening in the EU's largest economy and most populous member country?

Apparently the cost of active ingredients essential in the manufacture of many medicines, as well as rapidly rising production costs overall, are making it unprofitable to make some drugs. This - together with supply chain problems and the shortage of skilled workers – has caused the lack of availability of many medicines.

For the full report click here: <https://cibuk.org/2022-jul-eu-medicine-problems/>

For editors and journalists

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About CIBUK: The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](https://cibuk.org)) is a non-party political campaigning organisation of people from all walks of life. It is the UK's longest-running membership organisation for freedom, democracy and independence.

Founded in 1969, for over 50 years the CIBUK has made a significant contribution in campaigning on issues important to the majority of our population and in securing our exit from the European Union. Now it's time for the next chapter.