



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Internal Market

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Mr Jens Spahn
Federal Minister of Health
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53123 Bonn

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Dear Minister, *Dear Jens,*

Thank you for your letter and for sharing with the Commission the study on the functioning of the German pharmacy market.

My services have examined the study with great interest, and I believe that your study is an important step towards a better understanding of the mechanics of the pharmacy market, not only in Germany, but also in Europe in general.

The study clearly points to the importance of the digitalisation of pharmacy business models. Especially e-prescriptions have the capacity to boost online sales, by reducing waiting times and facilitating a digital market for prescription medicines and online pharmacies.

Furthermore, the COVID crisis has demonstrated again the importance of the digital transition, especially in the field of health care and prescription medicines. It is important that patients get digital access to prescription medicines and that pharmacies can supply them swiftly.

Therefore, the Commission welcomes Germany's intention to introduce compulsory e-prescriptions. The Commission appreciates the German leadership in this area and will work with other Member States to accomplish similar progress.

I trust that the forthcoming discussion in the Federal Parliament on the proposed German pharmacy law ("Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Stärkung der Vor-Ort-Apotheken") will lead to an improved access of German patients to prescription medicines in the Single Market.

Therefore, I would very much appreciate if you could keep me informed about the outcome of the legislative process in Germany.

Yours sincerely,



Thierry Breton