

## Medicine shortages are scaring people. What are the reasons and how can shortages be prevented in the long term?

The world has not only changed as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine, but prior to this, it was already apparent due to hostile actions in many other parts of the world especially in the Arab region. People can only endure a certain amount of suffering. Once this is exceeded, they try to make a living elsewhere. Wearing by Covid-19 pandemic and tormented by hunger, millions of people wander the world. Those who have not yet been affected sometimes forget to act humanely when their own prosperity seems to be in danger. Tackling the root of the problem is not easy when there is no awareness or will.

Many of us, not just me, thought that the idea of a global world centred around the fulfillment of humanity's dream to move away from fragmentation due to traditions and languages and to return to universal understanding and agreement on goals of humanity and common protection of our world.

But when this idea is confronted with reality, the economic influences to which political goals must be subordinated become clear. Almost all capital in the hands of a few rich people makes them the sole beneficiaries and determiners on this globe.

But if less and less care is taken of the entire globe and if profit is the only goal, then it becomes clear that this definition of a global world is a misconception. The grouping of the world into a village, in which the individual parts are not strengthened to form the whole, but only individual parts find justification in the whole, does not contribute to understanding and exchange of knowledge, but rather deepens the division of the foundations of life and understanding.

This has been abundantly clear for more than 10 years in the global supply of medicines.

The relocation of production to distant parts of the world, justified by the aim of reducing production and consumption costs, has not only discredited the goals of global exchange, but has highlighted the dilemma of the definition.

Years ago, when we demanded that only those who would produce in their own region should be allowed to sell there, this was ignored.

Now, in years of Covid-19 pandemic waves, the discussion has taken a dramatic turn without long-term goals. It is therefore important to once again raise our voices everywhere and point out the fundamental factual concepts:

1. the security of supply
2. social responsibility
3. the protection of the environment
4. social pricing

Ad 1: If production is local, it is easier to influence production processes and supply chains and minimise bottlenecks in the supply chain.

Ad 2: Local production preserves jobs and pays contributions to pension and health insurance, which make an important contribution to the security of the population.

Ad 3: Environmental protection is not divisible; keeping water and air clean cannot be limited to individual parts of the world, but must be guaranteed everywhere.

Ad 4: The argument that everything would then become more expensive can only be countered by the fact that the current pricing system allows considerable leeway and that as long as the markets alone determine the price, this runs counter to the global plan to sustain life in the world. The era of marauding money must be brought to an end.

The necessary change is not an end in itself, not an emergency solution and must not be a knee-jerk reaction.

We must rethink in order to survive together. The greed for profit of individuals must be replaced by the enjoyment of life for all. Thinking globally is right if the goal is to satisfy the needs of all.

For the small area of our membership, we want to make our contribution. In the New Year 2023, we will gain an overview of the situation of pharmaceutical care in general and especially in the care of people with cancer through a global survey and make this data available to all those responsible.

The doors are open for all those who already want to participate and have not yet joined a SIG.

(<https://esop.li/special-interest-group-sig/>)