

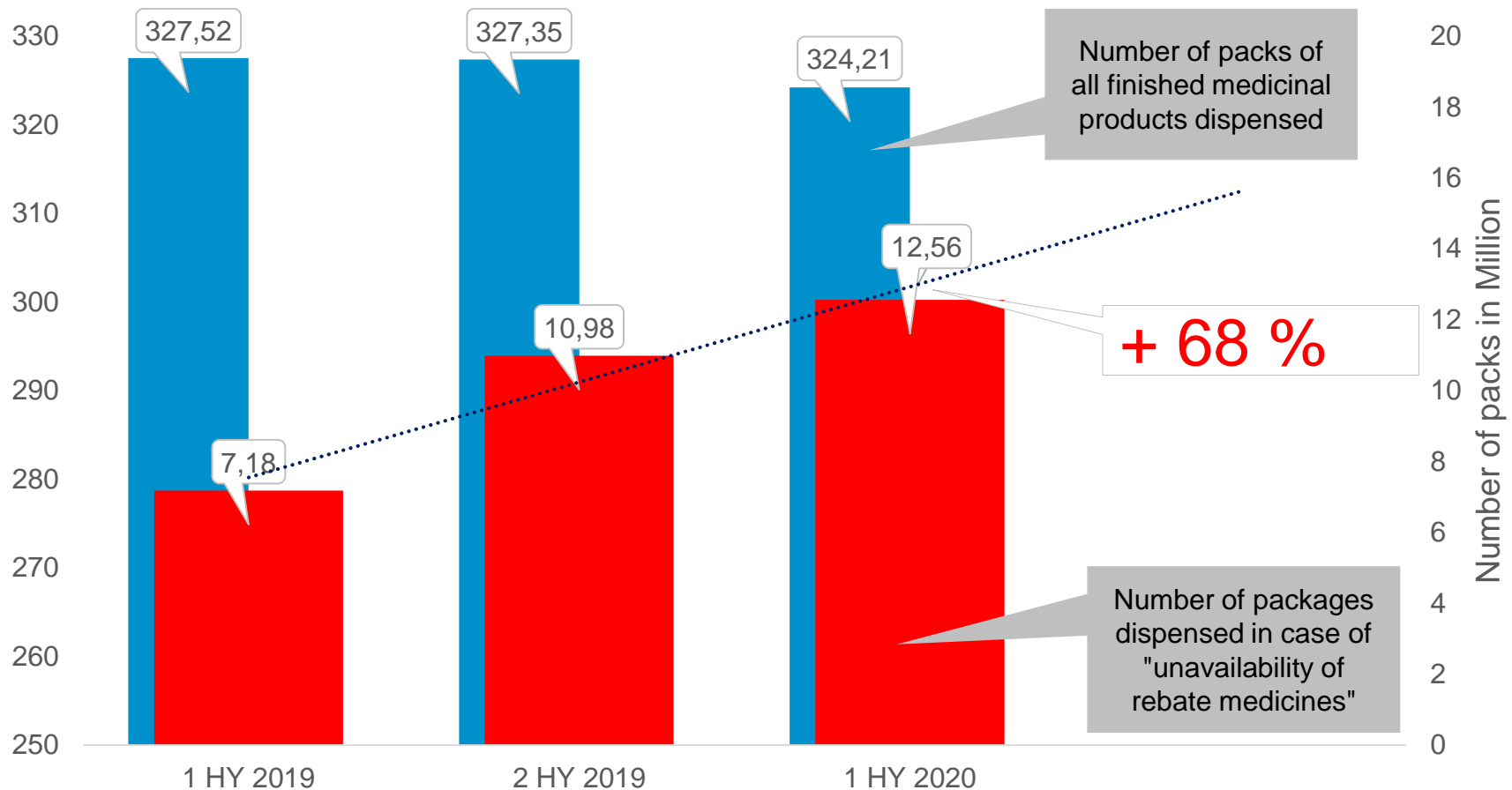
# **Medicines Shortages: Giving up? Finding Solutions!**

**Tuesday, 1 December 2020, Brussels/Berlin**

**Mathias Arnold, ABDA Vice-President**

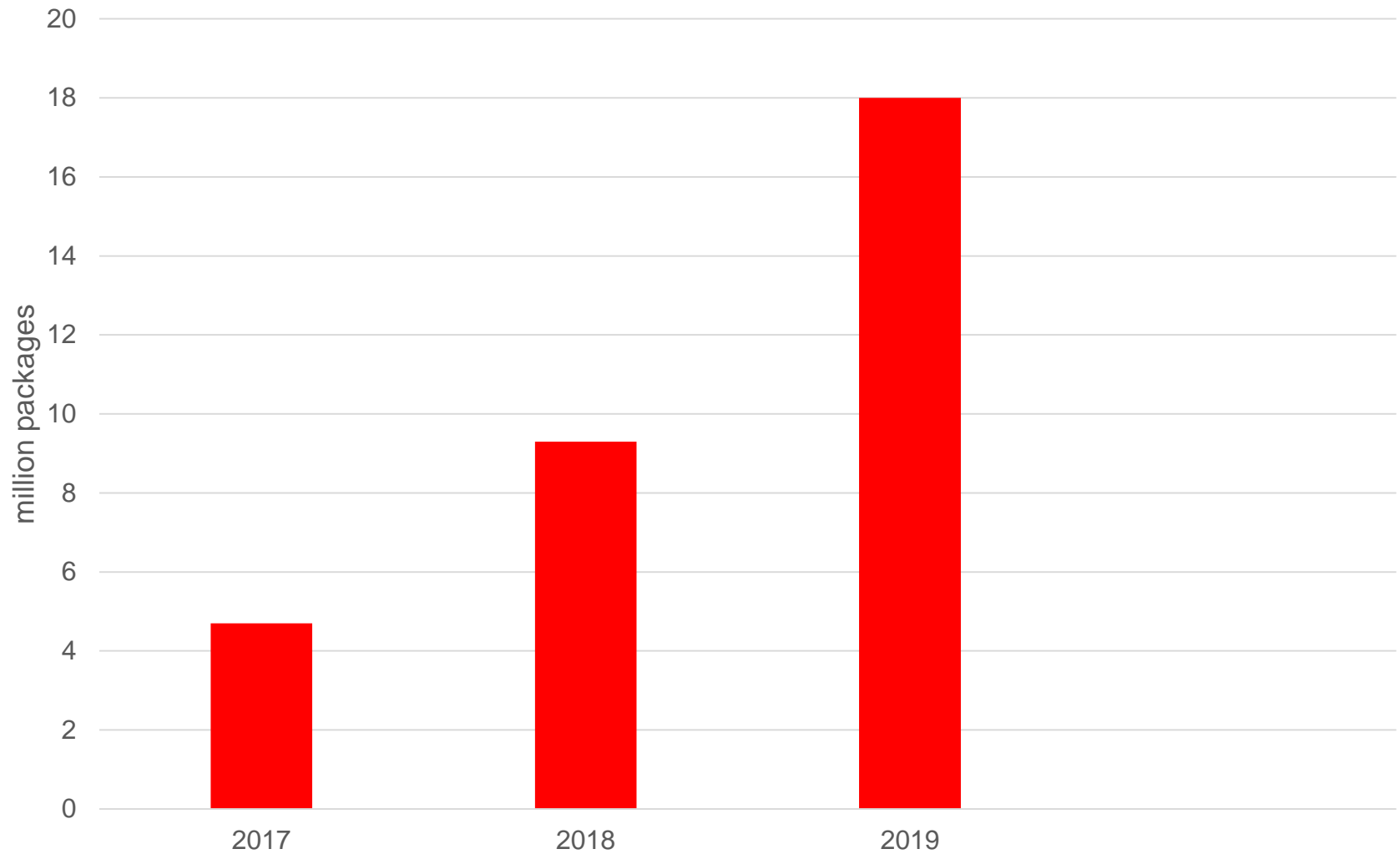
# Medicines Shortages: Some numbers

In Germany, the number of unavailable medicines that health insurance funds had agreed to offer to their insured through rebate contracts increased to 12.1 million packages in the first half of 2020. This is 68% more shortfalls than in the first half of 2019 (7.2 million) - and almost as many as in 2017 (4.7 million) and 2018 (9.3 million) combined.



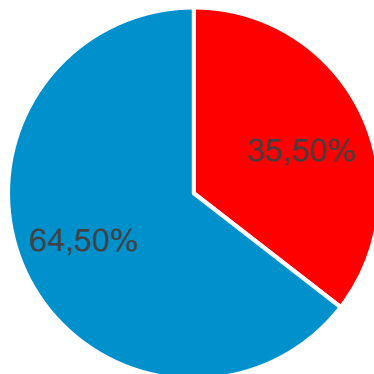
# Medicines Shortages: Some numbers

Number of unavailable reimbursable medicines

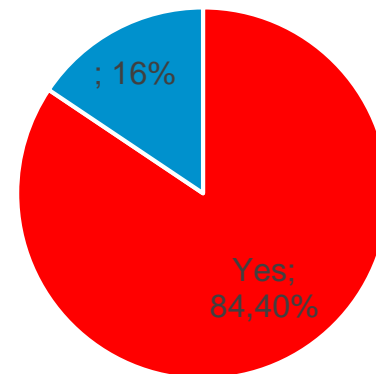


Self-employed pharmacists say: “Medicines shortages are one of the biggest challenges in their daily work.”

2016



2020



## 1. We need to know more about the situation of medicines shortages!

- › What is the national definition?
- › Which medicines are short?
- › Since when?
- › Until when?

## 2. We need diversity in production!

- › Manufacturing and storage of crucial active ingredients in Europe.
- › Neither oligopolies nor monopolies!

3. Distribution chain has to ascertain a comprehensive, nationwide provision of medicines!
4. Trust in the skills and knowledge of pharmacists!
  - › Create the possibility of substitution.
  - › Prevent that a medicines shortage develops to a shortfall of treatment of patients.
5. Leave Member States the right and the ability to provide the necessary regulations!

**6. The COVID Crisis showed:**

**The logic of the internal market must not be applied uncritically to health care!**

**Pharmaceuticals are not normal commercial goods!**

**Medicines must be available at all times and everywhere!**