

**Question for written answer E-006727/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Blood donation

Since the 1980s, homosexuals in France have been banned from giving blood on the grounds that they are a high-risk group as regards exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). However, it is not so much sexual orientation as 'risky behaviour' which increases an individual's exposure to STDs.

On Thursday, 17 July 2014 the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), Paolo Mengozzi, spoke out against the ban. He said that an exclusion of this kind could be justified by the need to protect public health and provided that its scope does not extend beyond what is strictly necessary, which may not be the case in France. The ECJ is expected to deliver its verdict in the autumn or by the end of the year at the latest.

1. In the meantime, will the Commission join the Advocate General in launching a debate on this issue?
2. What view does the Commission take of this violation of the fundamental rights of EU citizens?