

**Question for written answer E-006996/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Access in the EU to new drugs for hepatitis C

It is estimated that 60 000 people in the Autonomous Community of Galicia suffer from hepatitis C. The figure for the whole of Spain is 800 000 and worldwide 170 million people are believed to be infected. It is estimated that in Spain alone 10 000 people die each year as a result of this virus which can lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer.

The European Medicines Agency has authorised the marketing of a new treatment which has cure rates of 90 % and avoids the side effects of previous treatments. However the cost of this treatment, which is set by the drug companies themselves, is extraordinarily high, meaning its individual purchase is not feasible for the majority of those affected.

Does the Commission have plans for an initiative of some kind in direct association with the pharmaceutical industry or for coordinated action with the Member States so that this drug may be made accessible to all members of the EU public suffering from this virus?