

**Question for written answer E-008649/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Dangers to women in Ebola-affected countries

International bodies have raised concerns about dangers which are unique to women in confronting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Social custom in many of the affected countries places women on the front line of fighting disease, through roles such as healthcare workers, caretakers for infected family members, healthcare facility cleaners and laundry support staff. Despite the risk for women due to their traditional societal roles, the lack of age and gender disaggregation in epidemiological data leaves the potentially unbalanced exposure risk for women unable to be properly assessed and the crafting of a targeted response more difficult.

Additionally, it is well-documented that the effects of Ebola on pregnant women and their unborn children are particularly severe. Thus, adequate pre- and post-natal care for pregnant women and their children, including access to lifesaving pregnancy termination procedures, must be part of the Ebola crisis response.

1. As Member States are some of the largest contributors to the humanitarian aid effort in West Africa, what oversight measures can be undertaken to ensure a gender-targeted and gender-mainstreamed humanitarian response?
2. How is the EU promoting the need for access to pregnancy-specific healthcare in areas affected by Ebola?