

**Question for written answer E-010114/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

João Ferreira (GUE/NGL) and Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Combating HIV/AIDS infection in Portugal

The objectives set in the 2009 Commission Communication entitled 'Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009-2013', which identifies the conditions for helping to reduce the number of new infections and improving the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS by 2015 [*sic*], not only were not achieved but, on the contrary, it turns out that there was no decrease in the number of new cases diagnosed in the last decade, with the rate of infection remaining virtually the same since 2004.

Does the Commission consider that these objectives can be reconciled with the imposition on Member States of austerity policies, which have direct consequences for the lives of these and other sufferers, such as cuts in transport from home to hospital, the rationing of drug dispensing with monthly rather than quarterly prescriptions, the cuts in support for non-antiretroviral drugs, the failure to supply the latest medicines, the suspension of programmes to exchange used syringes and the non-inclusion in general hospital budgets of a funding line for the treatment of this infection?