

**Question for written answer E-010610/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Victims of thalidomide in Europe

Thalidomide is a drug which was developed by the German pharmaceutical company Grünenthal and marketed in Spain in the 1960s as a tranquiliser and also to alleviate morning sickness. However, it later became known that the drug caused severe birth defects. Thousands of people were affected and in Spain, Grünenthal continued to market the drug for several years, even after becoming aware of its serious consequences – shorter-than-normal limbs, osteoporosis, kidney, liver and pancreas problems and glaucoma, to mention but a few.

In Germany, the government and pharmaceutical company paid out compensation to the tune of EUR 600 million to the 2800 or more Germans affected. In Spain, however, the victims received no compensation at all.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? Has it taken any measures in this regard? In its view, has EU legislation and the obligation to compensate victims been complied with?