

**Question for written answer E-000345/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: New antibiotic scientific breakthrough

According to the journal *Nature*, an international public-private collaboration has discovered a promising new antibiotic, to which bacteria are unlikely to become resistant for several decades.

The drug, called teixobactin, quickly cleared infections in animal tests without side effects.

The rise in antibiotic resistance is a threat to modern health care, so this discovery could help to bridge the gap between infections and the medicines available. Increasing rates of bacterial resistance to medical treatment have caused growing concerns within national and international health organisations that mortality rates will rise for treatable diseases such as malaria, resistant strains of which have been reported in South-East Asia. This would arrest human and economic development across the globe.

The method used to discover the antibiotic could allow scientists to investigate a vast number of new microbes. Doing so will require funding, and cuts to basic scientific research are hindering progress in a segment of the pharmaceutical sector that is relatively unprofitable.

Is the Commission aware of this scientific breakthrough?

What action is the Commission taking as regards global coordination to fight the causes of microbial resistance?

Is the Commission taking action as regards funding for basic scientific research?