

**Question for written answer E-001422/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patricija Šulin (PPE)

Subject: Mandatory vaccination of children

Slovenia is one of the EU Member States in which vaccination of children is mandatory, even though parents strongly advocate being able to make the decision for themselves. Research has shown that vaccination does not necessarily have to be mandatory in order to be effective, and that countries may achieve a high level of protection even in systems based on recommendations rather than compulsion.¹ One of the prerequisites for this is the public being well informed, and objectively informed, about the benefits and dangers of vaccination.

1. What is the Commission's stance on voluntary vaccination of children?
2. The Council conclusions on childhood immunisation from 2011² call on the Commission to examine the possibilities for developing and implementing communication strategies for people who are sceptical about the benefits of vaccination, and to provide clear, factual information about the advantages of vaccination. What has the Commission done in this area?

¹ <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20183>.

² Council conclusions on childhood immunisation: successes and challenges of European childhood immunisation and the way forward (2011/C 202/2).