Question for written answer E-004657/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Access to medicines that save lives: hepatitis C

There are specific guidelines drawn up by both the Commission[1] and the Council[2] to facilitate affordable access to medicines by using the flexibilities established in the TRIPS[3] Agreement and dissociating R&D costs and end prices of medicines.

1. In connection with paragraph 4.3 of the Commission's Communication, and in the framework of trade, which is the responsibility of the EU, what is the Commission doing to promote a more effective use of the TRIPS Agreement that would increase the affordability of and access to essential medicines?

2. In connection with paragraph 18(c) of the Council Conclusions referred to above, what action is the Commission thinking of taking in order to make progress in dissociating the cost of R&D and the end prices of medicines?

3. Has the Commission considered certain instruments to make the current patent system more flexible and to facilitate access to medicines, such as prize funds, non-exclusive licences when there is public investment in R&D, or models of open R&D innovation, as recommended in the report by the WHO's Expert Working Group on Innovation?

1 COM(2010)0128 final of 31.3.2010.
2 Council Conclusions on the EU role in Global Health, 10 May 2010.
3 Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights.