

Question for written answer E-005013/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Blood donations in the EU

Blood transfusions help to save lives and improve health, but millions of patients around the world do not have access to safe transfusions in time. We ought to ensure that there are sufficient stocks of available blood. However, in the EU only those over 18 years of age can donate blood, even though many 17-year-olds surpass the physiological requirements for donation, as is the case in the USA.

With a view to increasing donations, the corresponding EU directive could be amended to allow those over 17 years of age to donate blood, or at least platelets, which are replaced more quickly than the cellular components of blood as a whole. Young people might do so altruistically, with parental permission, and would learn from such a needful act of solidarity.

Does the Commission intend to amend current legislation on this issue as proposed above or in some other way or to adopt some other measure to foment donations in the EU?