

Question for written answer E-007748/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Impact of Ebola epidemic

Since the Ebola outbreak last year, the virus has claimed more than 11 000 lives. In Liberia, which has had the highest number of deaths, as many as 4 700, the outbreak has been declared to be over. Guinea and Sierra Leone are still dealing with new cases.

We need to remember that the tragedy of the countries affected by the epidemic is not just the thousands dead. The virus has also had a devastating effect on the economy, because farmers have missed harvests, people are not going to work, and foreign firms are curtailing investments.

The education and healthcare systems have also been hit hard. Children have stopped going to school and there is a danger that some of them will not go back, and injections for other diseases have been missed, leaving hundreds of thousands of children prone to other infectious diseases.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to take further action, and if so what kind, to help the affected countries to alleviate the impact of the epidemic?
2. Have conclusions been drawn from the Ebola epidemic for the future, and if so, what conclusions, with regard to fighting similar threats in other regions of the world as well and with regard to the dangers posed by other infectious diseases?