

**Question for written answer E-008250/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Caesarean births and public health

In Spain, the percentage of caesarean births has increased by almost 10 % in the past 10 years, reaching 25.5 % of all births in Spain. Nevertheless, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that caesarean births should be restricted to 10-15 % of all births, in order to reduce the risk of complications and death of the baby and/or the mother during birth.

In developed countries, such as Spain and France, the rates have increased steadily over the past years. This has been due to the fact that caesarean births have ceased to be an exceptional measure and are now a recurring one, even though they are not safer than vaginal births. Studies have confirmed that maintaining the rate of caesarean sections between 10 % and 15 % drastically reduces the mortality rate, but that there is no clear improvement once that percentage has been exceeded.

Taking into consideration the risks to public health, what strategy does the Commission seek to pursue in order for countries in the EU to adhere to the 10-15 % rate of caesarean sections?