

**Question for written answer E-008811/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Anna Hedh (S&D) and Jytte Guteland (S&D)**

Subject: The EU's alcohol strategy

At the last European Alcohol and Health Forum, Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis made a statement in which he indicated that the EU's alcohol strategy would not be revised, but instead the Commission would propose a new strategy for tackling chronic diseases. While this new strategy is a welcome and necessary initiative, the European Parliament nonetheless has doubts as to why the strategy is to be drawn up instead of revising the existing alcohol strategy and thus obtaining a more comprehensive instrument by means of which to combat alcohol-related harm.

Chronic diseases, and alcohol as one of their causes, are an important issue, but such a strategy should supplement an alcohol strategy, not replace it.

Can the Commission give an assurance that the new strategy will also tackle such issues as drink-driving, children growing up in surroundings where abuse takes place, or alcohol advertising aimed at children and young people? If not, how will the Commission tackle these issues?

Why is the Commission opting to ignore the calls from Parliament, the Council and civil society for a new alcohol strategy?