

**Question for written answer E-009318/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Esther Herranz García (PPE)**

Subject: European protocol for detecting coeliac disease

Studies have indicated that around 1% of the European population suffer from coeliac disease (an intolerance to gluten, which is present in a number of cereals such as wheat, barley and rye), yet only 10-20 % of those people have been correctly diagnosed. This means that over 80% of those who have the disease may not be aware of it.

The European Union is sensitive to the situation created by this disease, and has already adopted regulations on the labelling of food that is gluten-free, or very low in gluten, but it needs to make this sensitivity more tangible and transparent by introducing measures to help coeliac sufferers more directly.

Has the Commission considered the possibility of establishing a dedicated, Europe-wide healthcare protocol for the Member States to assist efficient early detection of coeliac disease, including in patients without symptoms, with a view to drastically reducing the number of Europeans who are unaware that they have the disease, and thereby help improve their quality of life?