

Question for written answer E-009861/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Coordination over vaccinations in the EU

After the first case of diphtheria in Spain in almost thirty years, some regions are considering adding more vaccinations to the mandatory immunisation schedule, such as the vaccine against meningococcal and pneumococcal infections or chickenpox, which are currently recommended to families but are not obligatory.

Moreover, in some parts of Spain in recent months it has become common practice to travel to Portugal to buy the meningococcus B vaccine, which is not available in chemist's shops and is restricted to hospital use.

In Galicia a child died in February from meningitis B, and other children in the same region were affected too, while the drugs used to treat the child infected with diphtheria in Catalonia came to Spain from Russia.

This indicates a serious step backwards in terms of health and a profound lack of planning and coordination at the national level, which could also have consequences in Europe, as in the case of the patient infected by the Ebola virus.

Does the Commission plan to develop any measures to promote consistency in immunisation schedules in the EU? Does it think that it should be made compulsory for parents who are against vaccination to vaccinate their children?