

Question for written answer E-010619/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Coordination of vaccinations within the EU

After the first case of diphtheria in Spain in nearly 30 years, some autonomous communities are considering adding more vaccines to the vaccination programme, such as meningococcal, pneumococcal and varicella vaccines, which are recommended to families but not compulsory.

Moreover, in some areas of Spain it has become commonplace in recent months to travel to Portugal to purchase the meningococcal B vaccine, which is not available in pharmacies and is restricted to hospital use.

In Galicia, a child died last February from meningitis B, and other children in the autonomous community have also been infected. Meanwhile, the medication used to treat a child with diphtheria in Catalonia was supplied to Spain by Russia.

These events indicate a major step backward for healthcare and a serious failure in planning and coordination on a national scale, with potential consequences at European level, as in the case of the woman infected with the Ebola virus.

Does the Commission intend to take steps to encourage the coordination of vaccination programmes within the EU? Does it consider that child vaccinations should be made compulsory in cases where parents are opposed to vaccinating their children?