

Question for written answer E-010656/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: The morning-after pill is dispensed without a prescription

In future women across Europe will be able to buy the morning-after pill in any pharmacy without a prescription. Up until now the morning-after pill could only be prescribed by a gynaecologist and required a prescription. The emergency medication contains ulipristal acetate and levonorgestrel; this prevents ovulation by the woman and thus the combination of the egg cell with one of the sperm cells. However the results of new studies by the University of Padua have shown that the substance also has an abortifacient effect. This means that it not only prevents ovulation but also the implantation of a possibly pre-existing earlier multicellular embryo into the lining of the uterus.

This worrying fact gives rise to the following:

1. Levonorgestrel should only be taken up to a maximum of 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. As this medication is now freely available to everyone and can be taken without medical advice, I should like to know from the Commission whether the possible side-effects are known and how users are informed about how to take it.
2. Is there a minimum age at which the morning-after pill is issued or is it handed out freely to under-age girls as well without medical checks? How are under-age girls informed about the side-effects?
3. The morning-after pill is a drug with sometimes serious side-effects. What was the reasoning behind removing its prescription-only status?