

**Question for written answer E-010698/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), José Blanco López (S&D), Marek Plura (PPE), Anna Záborská (PPE), Tanja Fajon (S&D), Marian Harkin (ALDE), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE), Ivan Štefanec (PPE), Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Milan Zver (PPE) and Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE)**

Subject: More effective measures to raise awareness on dementia

36.5 million people are affected by dementia worldwide. The number of people suffering from dementia in Europe is estimated to be 9.9 million, and a total of 19 million Europeans are directly affected as relatives or carers of dementia patients. The WHO expects this trend to double by 2030 and triple by 2050: the overall human and economic costs associated with dementia patients will increase dramatically. Dementia is therefore expected to be a huge challenge for Member States' healthcare systems.

On 19 January 2011 Parliament adopted a resolution on a European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, calling for the stigmatisation and social exclusion of dementia patients and their relatives to be addressed.

What steps has the Commission taken to raise awareness on dementia, since the early recognition of symptoms may reduce patients' healthcare costs?

Can the Commission provide information on the measures that have been taken to limit the prescription of antipsychotic medications, drugs which are commonly prescribed in dementia cases but which are not only costly but also increase the risk of death?

What specific steps has the Commission taken to provide training, education and support for patients' families and carers?