

**Question for written answer E-011986/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Links between prescribers and producers

Parliament, in paragraph 63(d) of its own-initiative report on 'Safer healthcare in Europe' (paragraph 63(d)), 'urges the Member States to ... implement responsible marketing practices avoiding conflicts of interest between producers and prescribers of medicine'.

Moreover, the Commission-led process on corporate responsibility in the field of pharmaceuticals stated that: 'Transparency concerning relations between health professionals and companies is necessary in order to avoid any conflict of interest.'

In the absence of regulation, it is encouraging to see that the pharmaceutical industry has decided to disclose all payments made to healthcare professionals (HCPs) as of 2015.

Some companies and healthcare industries are in the process of deciding and/or implementing stricter measures which would, for example, limit direct payments to HCPs or put an end to direct invitations to doctors to attend congresses.

Does the Commission plan to support Member States in implementing the recommendations of Parliament and the Commission in order to help ensure that there is as little potential for conflicts of interest as possible?

If not, what steps does the Commission plan to take to encourage more companies to take complementary steps in addition to transparency, so that patients can be confident that the treatment they are receiving is in their best interest?