Question for written answer E-013488/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Bacteriophage therapy

Resistance to antibiotics is said to be responsible for 25 000 deaths in Europe each year. In France alone, nearly 160 000 patients develop infections from bacteria which are resistant to antibiotics.

Therefore, it seems that treatments based solely on antibiotics are no longer sufficient, particularly where patient safety and fighting infection are concerned.

Certain methods can be used to supplement or replace antibiotics, such as bacteriophage therapy, which is already widely used in Russia and other countries. This treatment nevertheless raises several issues, which should be dealt with by European regulations on the internal market in medical products and medication.

Furthermore, the resolution adopted by Parliament in 2013 (2013/2022(INI)) proposed that research in this area should be supported and Member States should be encouraged to promote this treatment method.

1. Has the Commission evaluated the potential merits and risks of using bacteriophage therapy in healthcare systems within the EU?

2. What regulatory framework can the Commission propose for the patenting of lytic phages?

3. Does the Commission intend to go beyond the 2013 resolution in order to promote the development of bacteriophage therapy?