

**Question for written answer E-000498/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Breast units across Europe

Breast cancer is the second most common of all cancers. Worldwide, it is the leading type of cancer in women, accounting for 25 % of all cases. Breast cancer is contracted by 275 000 women in the EU every year. Breast units are equipped multi-disciplinary and multi-professional clinics where women with breast cancer are treated by specialists in various medical fields.

Research has shown that breast units reduce preventable breast cancer mortality by 18 %, thanks to the combined care of several cancer specialists, the reduction of treatment-related stress in cancer patients and the opportunity to adjust treatment according to its short- and medium-term results.

As stated during the 2nd International Congress of Breast Disease Centres held in Paris in February 2012, 'All women across the world should have access to fully dedicated breast centres/units that provide competent and comprehensive care.' The Breast Centres Network (BCN) is a valuable example of the dissemination of information on how to deal with breast cancer. However, action should also be taken at EU level, since EU countries interpret and implement the European Parliament guidelines on breast units differently (see its resolution of 25 October 2006 on breast cancer in the enlarged European Union).

Is the Commission developing coordinated action aimed at applying a breast unit implementation policy across the EU?