

**Question for written answer E-000712/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Spread of Zika virus to Europe

The Zika virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, is believed to affect fetuses during pregnancy and has already caused thousands of cases of microcephaly among new-borns in Latin America. It now appears to have spread to Europe, a number of cases having been reported in Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy and Denmark. This is a serious public health issue, given that no cure or vaccine has yet been found. Only the symptoms, such as fever and skin rashes, can be treated.

In view of this:

1. Has the Commission taken measures to achieve closer coordination and ensure a concerted response to this emergency?
2. In this connection, what specific measures have been taken to protect European citizens, especially pregnant women?
3. Will the Commission apply the precautionary principle to the management and control of internal and external borders so as to prevent the spread of the virus?