

**Question for written answer E-000999/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)

Subject: Zika virus

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has just confirmed the seriousness of the Zika virus outbreak by declaring it an international public health emergency. The virus, which is spreading rapidly throughout South and Central America, puts unborn babies at serious risk of microcephaly and other birth defects if their mothers are infected by the 'killer mosquito' during pregnancy.

The WHO is calling on countries worldwide to help the spread of the virus.

How will the Commission contribute?

Given that the Zika virus constitutes a 'public health emergency of international concern', will the Commission develop a coordinated humanitarian aid programme for the areas worst affected by the epidemic and launch a prevention and information campaign in the EU, with a view to limiting travel to high-risk countries, in particular for pregnant women, and to establishing dedicated health networks for the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of those affected?