Question for written answer E-001639/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Use of the Essure birth control method

Essure is a birth control method used in the United States and Europe. Growing numbers of women have been falling ill with a variety of symptoms since their Essure coils were implanted.

Essure contains nickel and polymers, which have no place in the human body. Essure coils are made from the following materials: nickel titanium (about 55% nickel), platinum, iridium, stainless steel, silver, gold, ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene), PVP (polyvinylpyrrolidone), PET fibres (polyethylene terephthalate), carbothane, shrinking plastic, and TPE-A (Pebax).

A medical implant that does women great harm was allowed onto the EU market very quickly, before there were any reliable long-term research findings. The coils move about in the body, change their shape, break, and, worst of all, can fall out through the vagina.

It unfortunately appears to be the case that all the symptoms can be relieved only by a hysterectomy, which is an exorbitant price to pay for assuming that the doctor had prescribed a safe procedure based on research.

No research has been done on the effect which the toxic ingredients of Essure might have on fetal and – later on – child health.

The EU and the US FDA have been producing updates on the use of Essure, but the situation clearly demands immediate action to ensure that not one woman in Europe will have to suffer as a result of using a product that has plainly not been properly researched.

What steps will the Commission take to prohibit the implantation of Essure coils for as long as all of the essential facts concerning their safety have still to be brought to light?

What will it do to enable a stronger message to be given to consumers in cases where the safety of using particular medicines was ‘under consideration’ in agencies researching into the safety of medicinal products?