

**Question for written answer E-002055/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - the Zika virus and women's rights

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a warning about the risks associated with the Zika virus for pregnant women, such as microcephaly, which affects babies' brain development, or Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can affect the respiratory muscles and even lead to paralysis in infants.

Given that there is no vaccine, and given the rapid spread of the virus, the authorities in countries such as Ecuador, Jamaica and El Salvador have 'advised' women to avoid pregnancy for two years.

How will the Vice-President/High Representative put pressure on the governments of these countries to decriminalise abortion and guarantee women legal and safe access to abortion, at the very least if their health and their babies' health is at risk? How will she guarantee that women are educated properly about sexual and reproductive health?