Question for written answer E-002256/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Cross-border healthcare and combating commodification of the human body

Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare lays down the legal framework for cross-border healthcare, citizens' rights to reimbursement and arrangements for providing healthcare services in the EU. These liberalisation measures do have a number of advantages, including shorter waiting times, more reasonable prices prior to reimbursement and better quality healthcare, in particular for rare diseases. However, questions arise concerning the scope of the 'healthcare' covered by the directive.

At a time when new medical technology has made assisted reproduction techniques – including surrogacy – possible, the liberalisation of healthcare services, which are now simply regarded as regular services, is at odds with certain ethical considerations.

1. Does the Commission take the view that treatments designed to safeguard the 'right to have children' should fall into the same category as healthcare at European level? Does it distinguish between different scenarios in this regard?

2. What practical steps will it take to combat commodification of the human body, which will be a risk if the above treatments come to be seen as run-of-the-mill services?