

**Question for written answer E-003681/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Dental implants and peri-implantitis, a major public health issue

Implantology is a branch of dental surgery which has been practised by European dentists since 1986 and in which dentists replace the root of a tooth that has fallen out or been extracted with an implant.

Following the implant procedures carried out since the year 2000, a growing number of patients have complained that their implant has come loose. The complication is caused by an infectious inflammatory disease known as peri-implantitis, which causes the implant's anchoring system to alter gradually.

The factors associated with the risk of infection which explain or follow bone loss around the implant and subsequent peri-implantitis are numerous and affect not only the patient's profile but also the area surrounding the implant.

In recent years, increased awareness as to the seriousness of this public health issue has impelled dentists to develop treatments to prevent or repair the tissue and bone damage caused by peri-implantitis.

The number of studies currently available on the subject is limited. Given that implantology is an aesthetic and technological advance for the future, will the Commission address the issue by launching a study to identify the associated risk factors with a view to more effective prevention of peri-implantitis?