Question for written answer E-006621/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Effects of fine-particulate pollution on foetuses

In July 2016, the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) published the initial findings of a study of the effects on foetuses of fine-particulate emissions from diesel engines.

The research, which was carried out on mammals (rabbits), found that nanoparticles from diesel exhaust can cross the placenta and are present in foetal blood.

Signs of delayed foetal growth were observed in subjects exposed regularly to this type of exhaust pollution. More worryingly still, the effects of such exposure were observed to a lesser degree and with less severe consequences in second generation foetuses not directly exposed to the polluting emissions.

Given that human populations in Europe are exposed on a regular basis to the fine airborne particles in exhaust emissions, particularly from diesel engines:

1. Does the Commission intend to assess the risk that this exposure to pollutant emissions represents for pregnant women and foetuses?

2. Is the Commission in a position to propose an overall framework for research into the effects of an unhealthy environment on the human foetus?