

Question for written answer E-007321/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Infectious diseases and the migrant crisis

The ECDC has observed high prevalence of hepatitis B and C in the principal countries of origin of migrants. The prevalence of hepatitis B is 5.6% in Syria and 15.5% in Eritrea, and the prevalence of hepatitis C is 3.1% in Syria and 3.2% in Iraq, while the prevalence rates of both in Europe are 1%.

Migrant populations are also disproportionately affected by chronic infections of the hepatitis B and C viruses. Furthermore, the ECDC notes in a 2012 report that 80% of hepatitis B cases in Europe are 'imported'. The risk of transmission to the native populations of the Member States is all the more significant given that 75% of people infected by the two aforementioned viruses are not aware of it.

In view of the serious complications caused by these two viruses (including cirrhosis and cancer of the liver), does the Commission advocate emergency measures, such as the systematic screening of migrants arriving in Europe?