

**Question for written answer E-009022/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Patients and the widespread use of broad-spectrum vaccines

In a memo dated 25 February 2015 on the shortage of the tetravalent vaccine DTP-pertussis (DTP for diphtheria, tetanus and polio), France's High Council for Public Health, a body advising the Ministry of Health, criticised laboratories and condemned the repeated interruptions in the supply of vaccines.

These shortages have led to the widespread use of pentavalent and hexavalent vaccines. However, patients do not necessarily consent to also receiving a fifth vaccination, against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, which can cause bacterial meningitis, or a sixth, against hepatitis B, especially since the latter two are not compulsory in most European countries.

The World Health Organisation has consistently stressed how important it is for patients to consent to any medical procedure. This principle therefore applies to additional non-mandatory vaccinations.

1. Does the Commission condemn the fact these additional vaccinations are being forced on patients as a result of, among other factors, shortages of trivalent and tetravalent vaccines?
2. Does the Commission intend to urge laboratories to address such shortages?