

**Question for written answer E-009041/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Hazardous drugs - exposure of workers

Every year more than 20 million workers in Europe are exposed to carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic hazardous drugs, and in particular, cytotoxic drugs. According to EU-OSHA these drugs represent the most dangerous chemical risk factor in healthcare.

Prevention of exposure is best achieved by the elimination of these hazardous drugs and their substitution with other agents or processes but, where elimination or substitution is not possible, personal protective equipment, closed system drug transfer devices and administrative controls must be used. While the risk posed by hazardous drugs is recognised by EU-OSHA and the Commission, there is currently no harmonised approach to the prevention of this chemical risk in healthcare.

Will the Commission amend Article 5 of Council Directive 2004/37/EC to prevent the exposure of healthcare workers to hazardous drugs, and in particular cytotoxic drugs, by including the mandatory use and definition of closed system drug transfer devices and amend Annex 1 to include a list of the major hazardous cytotoxic drugs which healthcare workers are exposed to?

What is the Commission proposing to do to harmonise its approach to the prevention of exposure of healthcare workers to hazardous drugs, and cytotoxic drugs in particular?