

**Question for written answer E-000202/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Enterovirus D68 epidemic

Enterovirus D68, which was first identified in 1962, is one of about 100 non-polio enteroviruses. It causes respiratory infections of varying severity, especially among children, and can also cause neurological complications.

In its risk assessment of 8 August 2016, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported an increase in enterovirus D68 infections after April 2016, in particular in France, Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom, where 38 cases are said to have been found in 2016. The Centre is now therefore monitoring the virus much more closely.

In the US, according to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), a rare condition known as acute flaccid myelitis was identified in 2014, and 120 cases were reported in November 2016. A strong correlation has been found between acute flaccid myelitis and the presence of enterovirus D68.

1. Is the Commission, in the form of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, planning to further investigate the increase in enterovirus D68 infections and the virus's possible link with serious neurological illnesses, in particular acute flaccid myelitis?
2. Does the Commission recommend that all medical professionals be required to report cases of enterovirus D68, or that an enhanced monitoring system for enterovirus D68 infections be set up?