Question for written answer E-000204/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Neonatal screening for sickle-cell disease

Sickle-cell disease is a rare haemoglobinopathy in European populations, but affects 15-20% of births in sub-Saharan African, a prevalence correlation having been established between the disease and malaria.

In addition, sickle-cell disease is incurable: drugs can only alleviate acute attacks; transfusions and bone marrow transplants are possible.

Some countries, including the United States, have opted for universal neonatal screening so as to facilitate rapid treatment of the disease. The approach taken by others is to assess risk factors in relation to parents' geographic origins.

Does the Commission - through the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - recommend systematic screening for sickle-cell disease, bearing in mind that a final decision on this remains a matter for Member States?