

**Question for written answer E-001977/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Rubella vaccine

Rubella is a viral infection which, while mild in about 50% of cases, can lead to serious complications, in particular for pregnant women, since some 30% of women who contract rubella during pregnancy deliver a malformed infant or have a stillbirth.

In line with World Health Organisation recommendations, rubella is covered by most Member States' routine vaccination programmes.

It is still found at endemic levels in some Member States, however, in particular Romania, Ireland and Italy. In addition, according to a communication from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (in 2014) 77 cases of congenital rubella syndrome were reported in the EU between 2008 and 2012.

These figures underscore the importance of total vaccination cover for women of childbearing age and of booster vaccinations, given that the protective effect of the vaccine declines over time.

1. How does the Commission explain the persistence of rubella, and of congenital rubella in particular, in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend revising its recommendations on vaccinating against this condition?