

**Question for written answer E-001983/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Monitoring and treatment of diphtheria in the EU

142 cases of diphtheria were diagnosed in the EU and the EEA between 2009 and 2014.

The number is increasing as a result of migration. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has identified seven cases of cutaneous diphtheria among migrants (30 July 2015). The cutaneous form is more likely to be infectious than the respiratory form in non-endemic areas (see *Les feuillets de biologie*, No 329).

The main risk factors for Europeans are as follows:

- inadequate supply of anti-diphtheria vaccine;
 - less-than-optimal vaccine coverage, particularly for the elderly;
 - emergence of pathogenic diphtheria bacteria which do not express the diphtheria toxin.
1. Will the Commission and especially the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control update the recommendations on anti-diphtheria vaccinations?
 2. Will the Commission supplement the diphtheria alert mechanism to take into account the risk posed by pathogenic bacterial strains which do not express the diphtheria toxin?
 3. What is the Commission's assessment of the health risk caused by migration from areas where diphtheria is endemic?