

**Question for written answer E-002013/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Upsurge in whooping cough

In 2014, 38 044 confirmed cases of whooping cough were reported to the European Union, with a marked increase in the incidence of this disease over preceding years, and especially 2010 and 2011. In the Netherlands, specifically, the incidence of whooping cough rose from 17.8 cases per 1 000 to 49.9 cases per 100 000 from 2013 to 2014.

This increase in the rate of incidence stands in contrast to what is satisfactory vaccination coverage, as the anti-whooping cough vaccine forms part of the immunisation schedules of the Member States, all of which include the administration of four doses.

Acellular vaccines against whooping cough would, however, seem to be less efficacious (no more than 85%) and only ensure six years' protection. What is more, the bacteria *Bordetella parapertussis* can mutate, which goes a long way to explaining the epidemic in the Netherlands.

Lastly, difficulties in producing the vaccine led to the stock outages reported by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on 3 February 2016.

What conclusions has the Commission drawn in respect of the efficacy of the acellular vaccine used against whooping cough, and what recommendations would it make on stock outages?