

**Question for written answer E-002097/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Nessa Childers (S&D)**

Subject: Lack of Joint Action on Alcohol

Over the years, the Commission has used the 'Joint Action' approach to support Member States in their efforts in health policy areas. For some areas, such as cancer, a third joint action will be conducted.

Europe is the world's heaviest drinking region, alcohol-related harm constituting a major public health problem that inflicts large-scale socio-economic damage. In 2010 alone, the overall social costs of alcohol consumption in Europe were estimated at some EUR 155.8 billion.

Despite the salience of the issue of alcohol-related harm, the Commission has, to date, proposed only one Joint Action on Alcohol – RARHA. This joint action was extremely successful, leading to increased cooperation among the Member States as well as producing high-quality tangible results.

It is therefore surprising to see that the Commission in its Annual Work Programme for 2017 did not include the continuation of the Joint Action on Alcohol.

Could the Commission explain in detail its reasoning for not supporting the Member States in action on alcohol-related harm through continuation of the Joint Action?