

**Question for written answer E-002693/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Screening for sexually transmitted diseases

In 2013, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)) noted 'the growing burden of sexually transmitted diseases ("STDs") in the European Union', with 207 reported cases of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and 17 of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* per 100 000 people.

These STDs, which are often asymptomatic, are under-diagnosed because of a lack of public awareness. According to the ECDC, only eight Member States have conducted specific awareness-raising campaigns.

This under-diagnosis is also due to the lack of early and anonymous screening, in contrast to the situation with regard to HIV screening: the March 2017 edition of the *Scientific American* reported on the success of the early and anonymous STD screening offered by a private clinic in London.

1. The World Health Organisation has issued revised guidelines on STDs (2016-2021) in the light of the growing number of cases and the problems in treating them (antibiotic resistance). Does the Commission plan on issuing updated guidelines of its own?
2. In its guidelines, the World Health Organisation calls for STD screening to be improved. Does the Commission plan on supporting the development and more widespread use of the equipment needed to carry out early and anonymous screening tests like those referred to above?