

**Question for written answer E-003356/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Preventing and treating strokes in Europe

In May 2017, the SAFE (Stroke Alliance for Europe) published a report called 'Burden of Stroke', which reveals that there are significant differences in the care paths for stroke treatment both within the Member States and between them. According to the report, post-stroke care and support, in particular, are lacking. By 2035, the number of new stroke cases is expected to have grown by 34% in the EU. The best treatment for stroke is prevention: eight out of ten cases can be prevented.

In the past 20 years, we have managed to reduce the number of deaths caused by strokes in the Member States. However, each new case is a great tragedy to both the individual and the community, as strokes often cause permanent loss in physical capability. The total cost of strokes has been estimated to be as high as EUR 45 billion per year within the EU, in addition to which invalidity caused by stroke results in a significant loss in the work force each year.

The differences in the level of care mean that each year we lose lives in vain or experience permanent invalidity in situations where there is no capacity or capability to offer adequate and immediate treatment to patients. The Union should therefore use the means that it has to improve the prevention and treatment of strokes in all Member States.

Is the Commission aware of the extent of the issue and its effects on individuals and communities in Europe?

What will the Commission do to prevent the number of strokes from increasing uncontrollably as the population gets older?