

**Question for written answer E-003363/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Difficult to use medication packaging

Consumers, the elderly in particular, have complained considerably about how difficult medications and medication packaging are to use. For example, blister packs are often too bendy, which makes it difficult to get a pill out of the them, or using the pack might require too much finger power. Pills that are either too small or too big are also a problem: the consumers might not see them, they might fall easily out of their hands, or they might be large and difficult to swallow.

According to a study conducted in the United States in 2014, as much as 95% of the elderly population participating in the study had experienced practical difficulties in taking their medication. Some of those problems affected their health as it became impossible for them to take their medication.

It is difficult at national level to influence the actions of pharmaceutical companies and large businesses in the field. Therefore, actions at European Union level in that area would be both reasonable and necessary.

Is the Commission aware of the above problem? What action is it planning to take to remove this barrier which is making people's everyday lives, particularly the elderly and the sick, more difficult?