

**Question for written answer E-005781/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Lingering effects of the Zika virus on mothers and children

In May 2017, the Brazilian Government declared that the national Zika virus emergency had ended. The number of Zika virus cases and the number of infants born with Zika-related disabilities has decreased dramatically in 2017. Mothers now fear that the state will forget the afflicted children as the rate of new cases has decreased and media attention has dwindled.

However, the underlying conditions that allowed the outbreak to escalate remain largely unaddressed. Inadequate water sanitation and standing water are often breeding grounds for the Zika-carrying mosquitos. Without the improvement of water sanitation and infrastructure, outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses will continue to threaten public health in Brazil.

Will the EU encourage the Brazilian Government to improve their water and sanitation infrastructure to prevent future epidemics?

How can the EU and the international community call attention to the plight of the children and mothers who are still suffering from the long-term effects of the Zika virus, now that the media coverage has decreased?