

**Question for written answer E-005807/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Competence of international volunteers in the medical field

Regulations 375/2014 and 1398/2014 establish a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps. This programme, which has a budget of EUR 147.9 million for the period 2015-2020, aims in particular to enhance the training of the 4000 volunteers that are sent abroad on mission by non-governmental organisations.

International humanitarian aid concerns the health sector in particular, with doctors travelling on missions to developing countries.

The added value of medical humanitarian assistance is the subject of controversy.

For example, a study released on 6 March 2017 in *Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines* highlights the inadequate training of doctors sent abroad (sometimes as part of their academic training) and their ignorance of local particularities in the cultural field as well as in the area of public health.

In an article published on 16 March 2017 in the magazine *Scientific American*, Dr Noëlle Sullivan highlights shortcomings in the selection of volunteer doctors. According to her, some volunteers do not have the minimum necessary academic medical training to provide medical services.

Does the Commission intend to strengthen the process of selection and training of medical volunteers for the European humanitarian aid corps?