

**Question for written answer E-007277/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: Human Papillomavirus vaccination

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has become one of the leading causes of cancer, being responsible for 53 000 new cases of cancer in the EU every year, which affect both men and women.

Although vaccination to prevent HPV-related cervical cancer is the object of public prevention strategies in most European countries, vaccination coverage rates in adolescent girls dramatically vary from one country to another, with worrying gaps ranging from 20-90 %.

In addition, because men are not protected in most EU countries, they remain at risk of HPV-related cancers such as head and neck, and anal and penile cancers. Vaccinating only women is not sufficient to provide adequate protection for men.

Against this background, vaccination for both genders is crucial in addressing the challenge posed by cancer and confronting the existing health inequalities between and within the Member States, which is in line with the EU health strategy. HPV vaccination for both genders would contribute to achieving the Commission's objective to tackle inequalities in cancer outcomes and survival rates.

In view of this, what measures is the Commission taking to ensure that all citizens have equal access to this primary means of prevention which prevents HPV-related cancers and diseases?