Question for written answer E-007304/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Potential dangers of over-the-counter drugs

According to a study by French magazine *60 millions de consommateurs*, almost one in two over-the-counter drugs should only be available by prescription. This includes, most notably, commonly used medications for treating colds that contain a combination of a vasoconstrictor, an antihistamine and paracetamol.

The study showed that these 'all-in-one' drugs present an increased risk of overdosing, as well as undesirable side effects such as dizziness and cardiovascular events. Furthermore, the study found that many over-the-counter drugs are not very helpful. These may not present any major health risks, but they also appear to be only marginally effective, if at all.

It is the job of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to protect the health of European citizens by evaluating requests for marketing authorisation and controlling the medicines available within the European Union.

Therefore, will the Commission say whether an in-depth study into the potential risks for human health presented by the over-the-counter drugs available in some Member States will be conducted on a Europe-wide level?