

**Question for written answer E-006336/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Aldo Patriciello (PPE), Salvatore Cicu (PPE), Andrea Cozzolino (S&D), Raffaele Fitto (ECR),  
Innocenzo Leontini (PPE), Lara Comi (PPE) and Remo Sernagiotto (ECR)**

Subject: Launch of a call for tenders for a trial on the effects of moderate alcohol consumption on cardiovascular events and mortality

The effects of alcohol consumption on one's health have long been the subject of debate among scientists and institutions.

On the one hand, the WHO states that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption and the best thing for one's health is not to drink at all. On the other hand, promoting total abstinence is not the best preventive strategy.

Based on multiple epidemiological observational studies, there is consistent evidence of the negative correlation between moderate alcohol consumption and cardiovascular disease and mortality. Furthermore, consumption patterns, defined not only by consumption frequency and quantity but also by the fact that consumption may take place at mealtimes and in the context of a healthy lifestyle, influence the effects of alcoholic drinks on one's state of health.

Nevertheless, observational epidemiology has a limited but important role to play in the hierarchy of methods used to establish causal relationships in medicine. In order to provide solid data, long-term interventional studies are needed on moderate alcohol consumption, where the independence of the researchers, study protocols and statistical analyses is guaranteed, without the influence of financially interested parties.

In view of the above, does the Commission not consider it appropriate to launch a call for tenders for a trial on the effects of moderate alcohol consumption on cardiovascular events and mortality?