

**Question for written answer E-002407/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Fall in number of people covered by vaccines in 2018

According to a study released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), more than 20 million children were covered by vaccines in 2018. The study refers to diseases such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus, highlighting that the number of people covered by vaccination fell in 2018, mainly as a result of poverty and conflict. The same year also stands out because the number of measles cases – some 350 000 – had doubled in comparison with the previous year.

What measures will be taken to tackle backsliding in the combating of diseases such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus and to counter the decline in vaccination rates?

What action will be taken to support those countries whose populations face poverty and conflict?

What measures could be taken at EU level to raise public awareness of the importance of vaccination?