

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2827/03
by Kathleen Van Brempt (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Isolation units in hospitals

Europe escaped the SARS virus. According to virologists, however, there is a significant risk of a renewed outbreak of the SARS virus before the end of the year. Biological terrorism can also never be ruled out. In order to prevent the spread of viruses such as SARS, work needs to be done on isolation units in hospitals. Now that the threat of the SARS virus appears to have subsided, however, no such work is being carried out in Member States.

- Does the Commission agree that European hospitals need to have isolation units?
- Does the Commission intend to take action in this area?
- How many isolation chambers does the Commission believe hospitals in the EU should have available?