

**Question for written answer E-9505/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Antonyia Parvanova (ALDE), Linda McAvan (S&D), Françoise Grossetête (PPE), Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (ALDE), Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) and Richard Howitt (S&D)

Subject: Follow-up question concerning innovative funding to translate EU discoveries into worldwide-accessible vaccines to eliminate tuberculosis and contribute to EU 2020 goals

Member States and the EU have invested heavily in research into tuberculosis vaccines (Framework Programmes 5, 6 and 7). Consortia, now regrouped in TBVI (the Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative), have delivered world-class discoveries which are ready to be translated into new, effective and safe vaccines.

These vaccines will contribute significantly to the elimination of tuberculosis throughout the world and, if developed in the EU (through a translation of EU-funded R&D into added value and knowledge-based economy), would generate more than 1 000 directly-linked jobs, increased knowledge and sufficient benefit for further investment in knowledge and translation. With EUR 560 million, this translation into usable resources could be completed by around 2020, after which the investment could be paid back.

Lack of these financial resources is now creating endless bottlenecks, with the risk that these discoveries will finally leave the EU and create added value and jobs elsewhere, without any payback for the initial European investment.

Innovative funding can provide the solution by creating government and/or EU financial guarantees enabling the TBVI, which was created by the EU Commission, to raise the funds needed to develop the vaccines and pay back the investment through vaccine sales. This would create added value in the EU, provide EU citizens with new means of health protection and enable the EU to play a major role in reducing poverty, since tuberculosis costs LDCs (least developed countries) billions of euros per year. Finally, it would show that EU 2020 is serious. Few projects have such a societal reward in the EU and elsewhere in the world.

Would the Commission support the initiative of innovative funding by means of financial guarantees? Is the Commission willing to make its expertise available so that this project can be used as a model in achieving the EU 2020 objectives? Would the Commission help to coordinate action by the Member States to make financial guarantees for the development of TB vaccines a reality, taking into account the huge societal benefits?