Question for written answer E-004340/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Angelika Werthmann (NI)

Subject: Role of generic medicines in the EU

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) potentially reduces access to lifesaving generic medicines. This particular aspect of ACTA has caused indignation among the large number of European citizens who use generic medicines to treat and cure their illnesses. The recent debates aimed at changing the position of national and European authorities underlined the contribution of generic drugs to improving the health of many citizens who would otherwise die.

1. Does the Commission view this aspect of ACTA as a violation of Articles 2 and 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

2. Has the Commission updated the data on the current market share of generic medicines in the EU?

3. Does the Commission provide financial support for research on generic drugs? If so, how much funding has been allocated to this kind of research and through which programmes?

4. Does the Commission view the maintenance of generic medicines as a positive element which can boost free and productive competition in the EU market?