

**Question for written answer E-013202/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Susy De Martini (ECR)**

Subject: Health: prevention as a means of easing the pressure on national health-care system budgets

Spending on national health-care systems accounts for a significant proportion of the Member States' budgets, and is expected to increase by a third by 2060.

The Annual Growth Survey 2014 (COM(2013)0800), which sets out the priorities of the current European Semester, recommends that the Member States reform their health-care systems in order to guarantee their efficiency and sustainability and to ensure their effectiveness and adequacy in meeting the needs of the population.

The Commission Staff Working Document 'Investing in Health' (SWD(2013)0043) accompanying the Communication 'Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion' (COM(2013)0083) states that investing in health means both investing in sustainable health systems and improving the health of the population.

In Italy diabetes and hypertension are two of the most common disorders affecting the population.

Until now, in Italy, these disorders have only been diagnosed at a late stage and in the majority of cases in accident and emergency departments, when they have already caused obvious damage.

Prevention is very important where these disorders are concerned, and if they are diagnosed in time, the costs to the national health-care system, as well as the negative impact and effects on the population, can be significantly reduced.

Investing in preventive screening for these disorders is therefore vitally important.

1. Does the Commission plan to invest in preventive screening for diabetes and hypertension in the Member States?
2. If so, what measures will it adopt in order to improve the early diagnosis of the above-mentioned disorders and so reduce the cost burden on national health-care systems?
3. Has it included prevention in the package of reforms recommended to the Member States, and in particular to Italy, so as to improve the sustainability of national health-care systems and the health of the population?