

**Question for written answer E-000432/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)**

Subject: Sharing of best practice to encourage education for hospital staff on Clostridium difficile infection and to raise awareness among patients

Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) is one of the main healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in Europe. Studies suggest that CDI is currently two to four times more common than HAIs caused by methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). Since 2003, new variants of CDI with greater virulence have been emerging and spreading, causing higher patient morbidity and mortality. Experts convened by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control have estimated the cost of managing CDI in the EU at approximately EUR 3 billion per year, and this figure is expected to rise as the elderly proportion of the population increases across Europe.

In response to this threat, the Commission has established that the training of specialised hospital staff and the provision of information to patients are areas in need of improvement in the fight against HAIs. Would the Commission consider sharing best practice to encourage the routine provision of CDI-specific education to these groups across Europe?