

**Question for written answer E-000955/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)**

Subject: Health problems caused by intensive use of digital devices

According to a study carried out by Vision Council in the USA, over 70% of adults suffer eye strain and blurred vision from the excessive use of calculators, tablets and smartphones.

In addition to eye problems, use of a digital device for an uninterrupted period of two hours can also cause back pain and headaches. Furthermore, detailed studies have revealed that light from monitors can result in macular degeneration and cataracts. Vision Council has discovered that, on average, Americans spend between six and nine hours per day using their digital device, while the number of adults using it for over ten hours per day has risen by 4% over the last year.

According to a similar study, users also risk psychological harm, the risk being around 60% greater for children spending over two hours per day at the screen, whatever activity they do for the rest of the day.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission support new research activities into the link between communications devices and health problems possibly caused by them?
2. Is the Commission prepared to launch an awareness campaign regarding this problem?