

**Question for written answer E-002039/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sergio Berlato (PPE)

Subject: Fraud in connection with stem-cell treatments provided outside the European Union

Some leading Italian doctors have raised the alarm about a practice, brought to light in various non-European countries, of providing stem cell-based treatments which do not follow proper medical procedures and are based on false information. This is actually fraud, and it is often committed with the support of organised crime groups. The main aim is to fleece seriously-ill patients by duping them into embarking on what are called 'journeys of hope'. Many EU citizens, prompted by the desire to find an effective remedy for their illnesses, travel to third countries, where they undergo medical procedures which prove useless, not to say harmful in many cases.

1. Does the Commission know about these 'journeys of hope' to undergo stem-cell treatment?
2. Can it draw up a list of countries outside the European Union in which medical practices have been found not to meet minimum standards of safety and effectiveness?
3. Does it plan to suggest to the competent authorities of the Member States that they organise an information campaign to discourage EU citizens from embarking on journeys of this type?