

**Question for written answer E-003479/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Philippe De Backer (ALDE)

Subject: Stem cell research

Following the donation of stem cells from umbilical cord blood or elsewhere, patient data is automatically entered on a register available for cross-border consultation, making it easier to match up those needing stem cell transplants with suitable donors.

However, European stem cell and umbilical cord blood banks are being given little or no access to the US market for stem cell products and treatments, despite the fact that their US counterparts do have access to the European market.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the problem?
2. Are sufficient guarantees being provided regarding data confidentiality?
3. Is the problem of importing and exporting products and treatments being discussed in the context of negotiations between Europe and the United States on the new free trade agreement?