

**Question for written answer E-003709/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Statistics on infertility in the EU

An increasing number of couples in the European Union, as well as elsewhere, are experiencing infertility problems. According to the World Health Organisation, this is 'a disease of the reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a pregnancy'. In Romania, for example, one in six couples are faced with infertility problems, and the birth rate is in decline. Despite this, couples experiencing infertility who want to use *in vitro* fertilisation in order to have a child still have to meet the entire cost of this procedure, given that the Ministry of Health has not made provision for it to be subsidised through the Single Health Insurance Fund in the period 2014-2015, and the national sub-programme for *in vitro* fertilisation came to an end in early 2013.

Does the Commission have any statistics on the percentage of couples experiencing infertility problems in the European Union and on their situation, as well as on how much fertility treatment costs in each Member State and the extent to which they each subsidise this?

Although this is a health policy issue – and therefore the sole competence of the Member States – what is the Commission's position with regard to it? Does the Commission plan to encourage an exchange of good practices between Member States in this field?