

Question for written answer E-012972/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Zoltán Balczó (NI)

Subject: Does mass migration into Europe entail a risk of epidemic?

This year mass migration into Europe via the Balkan route has assumed enormous proportions. Only this year, more than 235 000 migrants have arrived in Hungary from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh and other Middle Eastern and Far Eastern countries, for whom the Hungarian state has provided the appropriate health and social care. In this connection, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, European regional director of WHO, stated in her most recent communication that epidemic diseases are linked first and foremost to poverty, and that in her opinion it is migrants who are most exposed to often infectious diseases in Europe.

According to WHO data, the incidence of TB, polio, measles and other infectious diseases in the countries of the Middle East – particularly those affected by wars – is twice or three times higher than in Europe owing to inadequate medical care. The chronic situation of war or civil war in the countries in this region means that the social care system has broken down, effectively condemning a significant proportion of the population to poverty and need.

In the light of the above:

1. Is there a correlation between the incidence of epidemic disease and growing poverty in a given country?
2. Is there a risk of epidemic for the EU in the mass arrival of migrants from countries, mostly in the Middle East, that are affected by poverty and wars?