

**Question for written answer E-000722/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Zika virus

An outbreak of Zika virus in Brazil reached epidemic proportions in 2015. Some 1.5 million people have been infected over the last three years. Although relatively benign for adults and children, the virus is extremely dangerous for unborn children and is responsible for an increase in the number of babies born with microcephaly from around 150 in previous years to close to 3000 in 2015. As has been pointed out by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the Olympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 will increase the risk of the virus spreading to Europe, owing to the large numbers of European sportspersons and tourists who will be travelling to the games.

1. Is the Commission monitoring the situation, and if so, how?
2. Will it be publishing warnings in the very near future for people travelling to Brazil and other infected countries?
3. What, if any, precautionary measures will it be taking vis-à-vis people travelling to Brazil to attend the Olympic Games or for other reasons?