

**Question for written answer E-001273/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Howitt (S&D)

Subject: Epilepsy awareness

Epilepsy accounts for 0.5 % of global illnesses, according to a report by the Secretariat of the World Health Organisation Executive Board. More than 50 million people are at a higher risk of premature death across the globe due to this illness, including approximately 57 000 people with epilepsy in my constituency, the East of England.

With reference to the above points:

1. What action is the Commission taking to lead research into the prevention, diagnosis and early treatment of epilepsy?
2. What steps can the Commission take to ensure that innovations in epilepsy management are cheap and accessible, and can both improve and save people's lives?
3. What can the Commission do to address the stigma that often accompanies epilepsy and raise awareness of this illness?