

**Question for written answer E-005620/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Krystyna Łybacka (S&D)

Subject: Access to proton therapy in Western Poland

Proton therapy is a recognised method for treating tumours in children, as well as some forms of tumours in adults. Unfortunately, the residents of Western Poland (more than 10 million people in five provinces: Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie, Opolskie, Wielkopolskie and Zachodniopomorskie) do not have access to this type of treatment. Patients from this region thus have lower chances of successful treatment and of leading a normal life. In order to ensure equal access to treatment, it is vital that proton therapy is made available swiftly and locally in Western Poland.

Could the Commission say whether it would be possible to use EU funds to support the project to construct a proton therapy facility in Western Poland? If so, from what EU programmes or funds should such support be sought? As part of its support for this project, could the Commission encourage decision-making centres in Poland to help improve accessibility to modern treatment for malignant tumours – above all in children, but also in adults suffering from forms of cancer that are much more effectively treated by proton therapy?