

**Question for written answer E-001674/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Ádám Kósa (PPE)

Subject: Interference threats to European hearing aid and cochlear implant users

More than 50 million EU citizens have hearing difficulties severe enough to create obstacles in their daily lives. Many of them rely on hearing aid, cochlear implant or assistive listening devices (ALDs) to communicate with others in the workplace or in their private lives.

An increasing number of hearing aid and cochlear implant users are now dependent on Bluetooth technology to establish the necessary connection between their hearing aid and a transmitter system.

However, the current spectrum in the only worldwide band – the 2.4GHz band – is set to become extremely congested, and if current proposals for Global Star and LTE technology mobile operators are extended to Europe, not only will congestion become even more severe, but the bandwidth situation will be compounded by interference from wireless audio transmission. An available and interference-free spectrum is required in order to ensure the well-being of hearing aid users and users of similar medical devices that currently rely on the same spectrum band across the Union.

How does the Council intend to protect the quality of life of hearing aid users and those who stand to be affected? What legislation should be amended or proposed in this regard to overcome further challenges and difficulties?