

**Question for written answer E-002180/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Françoise Grossetête (PPE)**

Subject: Using vaccination to combat antibiotic resistance

In preventing bacterial infections, vaccines reduce the ability of bacteria to develop resistance. It has been shown, for example, that universal administration of the joint pneumococcus vaccine could obviate the need for 11.4 million days' use of antibiotics in children aged under five. As yet, however, not all European countries include this vaccine in their paediatric immunisation programmes.

The same is true for viral vaccines. Many needless prescriptions are issued to patients with viral infections. What is more, bacterial infections, which require treatment using antibiotics, often piggy-back on viral infections. Flu vaccination rates, meanwhile, are below the targets set by the Council in its 2009 conclusions.

In the light of the above, will the Commission encourage an ambitious vaccination programme as part of its forthcoming action plan to combat antibiotic resistance and use the next joint action on vaccination to assess how vaccination could be used to combat antibiotic resistance more effectively?