

**Question for written answer E-004520/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)**

Subject: Reluctance in vaccination - Anti-vaccine movement and safety of vaccines against complications

The anti-vaccine movement has also been expanding in Greece and paediatricians are asked to reassure parents about the safety of vaccines.

There are indications that one in ten parents refuses to vaccinate their child, while four out of five express reluctance to vaccinations<sup>1</sup>

The questions usually relate to the possibility of omission or postponement of vaccinations as well as security issues. An Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics notes that vaccines are victims of their own success; many diseases have been eliminated due to vaccines and the collective memory of the prior situation has of course languished.

Vaccination coverage rates, nevertheless, remain high, which has led to the eradication or disappearance of diseases. Since 2002, Greece has been declared a polio free country, while no case of measles has been registered since the beginning of 2016 to date.

The benefits of the vaccines in each stage of life must obviously continue to run.

In an environment of intense and complex disputes, what support tools will the Commission employ to assist the work of medical workers and to increase the confidence of stakeholders?

Will it support further a pan-European information campaign on the benefits and the necessity of vaccination and the high safety level of vaccines, particularly against potential complications?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kathimerini.gr/906740/article/ygeia/olo-kai-pio-distaktikoi-enanti-toy-emvoliasmoy>