

**Question for written answer E-000138/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Karin Kadenbach (S&D)

Subject: HPV vaccination programmes for boys

Every year, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes 53 000 new cases of cancer in the EU, which affect both men and women. HPV is associated with a number of cancer types, as well as other diseases affecting both genders. However, HPV vaccination is only accessible to girls in the vast majority of European countries.

In this context, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has confirmed the cancer prevention benefits of vaccinating boys, together with the fact that the most effective strategy to prevent HPV-related morbidity in the population would be universal vaccination, i.e. both adolescent boys and girls. Recommending HPV vaccination for both girls and boys would significantly decrease the circulation of the virus and therefore reduce the public health burden of HPV-related cancers and diseases.

In addition, the ECDC has acknowledged that vaccine coverage in boys would not only be effective in preventing HPV-related conditions in men (genital and anal warts, anal cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, penile cancer and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis), but would also prevent cervical cancer in women through community protection.

In light of the above, when will the ECDC formally recommend HPV vaccination programmes for boys in order to address inequalities between European citizens in cancer prevention?