

**Question for written answer E-004944/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Ensuring better care for people with Hepatic encephalopathy

Hepatic encephalopathy (HE) is a potentially life-threatening neuropsychiatric condition associated with liver disease. It currently affects over 200 000 people in Europe, and impacts 40 % of those who suffer from advanced chronic liver disease. However, despite its severity, the European Liver Patients' Association has shown that HE remains underdiagnosed and under-treated, resulting in unnecessary deaths and poor quality of life for patients and their carers<sup>1</sup>. One reason for this is that it only recently received a code in the World Health Organization's (WHO) new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)<sup>2</sup>.

Although this new code is welcomed by patients with HE, we now face the challenge of ensuring its timely implementation and promoting clinical awareness of the disease in order to empower patients to exercise their right to a proper diagnosis, appropriate care pathways and life-saving treatments.

In view of the above:

Has the Commission engaged with the WHO regarding the timeline for the implementation of ICD-11 and, if so, what was the outcome of this engagement?

What other efforts would the Commission be willing to undertake to ensure increased clinical awareness around HE?

What other efforts would it be willing to undertake to ensure better diagnosis and treatment of HE in the future?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elpa-info.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/Time%20to%20DeLiver%20-%20Getting%20a%20Grip%20on%20HE%20report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://icd.who.int/browse11/l-m/en#/http://id.who.int/icd/entity/1769383160>