

**Question for written answer E-000987/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lampros Fountoulis (NI)**

Subject: Alarming increase in cases of oral cancer

Piraeus Dentists' Association has raised the alarm about the worrying increase in the incidence of oral cancer, as the number of cases has risen by 25% over the past ten years and every year more than 300 000 new cases are reported worldwide. According to Mr Goutzanis, oral cancer is difficult to treat and, when diagnosed at an advanced stage, the outcome is usually fatal.

He goes on to point out that a large number of patients only consult doctors when the disease has reached an advanced stage, adding that, unfortunately, only 31% of oral tumours are diagnosed at an early stage.

At least three-quarters of cases of oral cancer could have been avoided if patients had stopped smoking and drinking alcohol; but other factors are also responsible for the increase in the incidence of oral cancers, namely solar radiation and HPV (human papillomavirus), which is sexually transmitted^{1 2}.

Will the Commission say:

- 1) Is it aware of the increase in cases of oral cancer in the EU?
- 2) What steps will it take to address this phenomenon?

¹ https://www.in.gr/2019/02/04/health/anisyxitiki-ayksisi-sta-krousmata-karkinou-tou-stomatos/?fbclid=IwAR3EE-_HL4mLT3DqfbL6wKcssZqz9hg5bw6sto78hovxhaRwbqeO14udWxY

² <http://www.amna.gr/health/article/331248/Anisuchitiki-auxisi-parousiazoun-ta-krousmatakarkinou-tou-stomatos>