

**Question for written answer E-002967/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Alex Agius Saliba (S&D)**

Subject: Fighting child obesity in Europe

A new study from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported an increase in the number of severe obesity and overweight cases in school-aged children in Southern European countries. With the start of the new 2019-2020 school year, the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme will resume in participating EU Member States. Despite the existence of this scheme that helps to promote healthy eating and balanced diets in schools, consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and of milk in the European Union does not meet international or national nutritional recommendations. On the other hand, consumption of processed food, which is often high in added sugar, salt, fat or additives, is on the rise.

How is the Commission evaluating the impact of the EU school scheme, and what other actions are being taken to complement the scheme and promote healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle among children and their families?

What steps is the Commission planning to take to address and fight the severe problem of child obesity in Europe and to help prepare the various national health systems that are not ready for this challenge?