

**Question for written answer E-004378/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: 120 000 babies a year are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

9.8% of women worldwide, i.e. nearly one in ten, continue to drink alcohol during pregnancy, and about 120 000 babies worldwide are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) each year. In Cyprus, in 2017, the proportion of pregnant women who reported consuming alcohol during pregnancy was 5.5%. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy and lactation can cause permanent physical and neurocognitive abnormalities, known as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs).

Given that the effects on the fetus are developmental, organic and also mental, and that babies with this syndrome are born with abnormalities in their facial features and usually have withdrawal symptoms in the first days after birth, what action will the Commission take to plan, promote and implement new and effective measures to protect vulnerable groups, in particular pregnant women and fetuses?