

**Question for written answer E-004275/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Blood donation management at the EU level

Directives 2002/98/EC, 2005/61/EC and 2005/62/EC form the European Framework for Safe Blood Donation. According to the Commission (SWD(2019)376), every year 1 400 blood centres handle 20 million donations that provide 25 million transfusions.

However, the WHO emphasises that access to safe blood remains a privilege of the few. Worldwide, 42 % of blood is donated in high-income countries, which represent only 16 % of the global population.

Especially during the summer, blood depots are at risk of not being able to ensure the regular storage of blood components due to the limited number of donations, despite epidemics being on the rise.

What is more, blood products are vulnerable and expire in a short period of time.

It is indicative that about 2 % of the total blood donated in England and Wales in 2015 was wasted.

1. Given its responsibilities, does the Commission plan to come up with a strategy or projects to reduce blood wastage through specialised storage and distribution systems?
2. Can instruments like the EU Blood SOP be used further?
3. Is there added value in the formation of a pan-EU blood bank system, which would allow Member States to collaborate, exchange and share good practices and blood when necessary?