

**Question for written answer E-006034/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Developing phage therapy in Europe

Discovered in 1917 by Félix d'Hérelle, a researcher at the Institut Pasteur, phage therapy consists in using healer viruses, or phages, to reduce bacterial infection. These viruses will only reproduce in the cells of bacteria, where they destroy them without infecting human cells.

The technique was, however, dropped after the Second World War and replaced by the use of antibiotics, which were deemed more effective. But the problems of antibiotic resistance are now leading to phage therapy being viewed as a serious alternative.

Phage therapy could improve considerably treatment against staphylococcus aureus, respiratory infections or even osteoarticular infections, particularly those arising after prostheses are fitted. It also offers real hope to diabetics, whose feet sometimes have to be amputated.

My questions to the Commission are as follows:

1. The Commission has already funded the French clinical research trial Phagoburn, which focused on victims of third degree burns. Is it considering funding other clinical trials, notably with a view to fighting staphylococcus aureus, E. coli or osteoarticular infections?
2. If need be, will the Commission consider simplifying the EU's regulatory medicines framework to further the rapid development of phage therapy?