

**Question for written answer E-001991/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Monkeypox

As of 25 May 2022, 118 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in the EEA, with a total of 219 confirmed cases reported worldwide. Despite the fact that all infections have now been mild, and that, of the suspected and confirmed cases, about ten patients in Europe have so far been hospitalised, the indigenous circulation of the disease is an entirely new phenomenon.

The ECDC risk assessment of 23 May 2022 encourages countries to forward information on the current situation to clinical specialists at various levels of the healthcare system. In addition, diagnostic samples suspected to contain the virus should be processed using BSL-2 infrastructure. Laboratory personnel handling samples suspected to contain the virus who have not been vaccinated within the last 10 years should use appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance with more stringent working practices consistent with BSL-3.

1. In view of the above, does the Commission plan to provide additional support to Member States in strengthening their laboratory diagnostic capacity for orthopoxviruses and additional recommendations on diagnostic tests?
2. Does the Commission envisage further review of the recommendations regarding the development of a new smallpox vaccination strategy, stocks of smallpox vaccines and, if the situation escalates, also a possible review of the availability of antiviral treatments for potentially severe cases of the disease?