

**Question for written answer E-001995/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Joanna Kopcińska** (ECR)

**Subject:** Recurrence of drug-resistant tuberculosis cases

The latest joint ECDC/WHO report on tuberculosis dates from 2022 and shows a significant decrease (about 24%) in reported cases and recurrences between 2019 and 2020. However, the decrease in reported cases does not seem to indicate an improvement in the disease situation, but rather evidence of lower tuberculosis case detection, a consequence of less accurate reporting in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

More recently, the increase in reported tuberculosis cases is clearly confirmed by many countries reporting an increasing threat and a significantly higher proportion of drug-resistant tuberculosis cases.

- 1) Although epidemiological patterns and trends vary considerably among EU/EEA countries, which are approaching a low incidence of less than 10 cases per 100 000 population, the WHO European Region as a whole is home to nine of the 30 countries facing the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the world. What early prevention measures is the Commission considering to improve this situation?
- 2) Given the genuine problems of under-diagnosis and under-reporting of tuberculosis cases in previous years, what measures and early intervention tools does the Commission envisage proposing to support Member States in their efforts to prevent tuberculosis from becoming the world's most deadly infectious disease again?

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