

**Question for written answer E-002996/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Respiratory diseases in autumn/winter

Autumn and winter in Europe are a time when respiratory viruses are more prevalent. Seasonal influenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (which causes the Covid-19 disease) are now part of the autumn/winter viral disease season, which is just beginning. Analysis published on 14 September 2023 by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that with the combined effect of three viruses even an average respiratory season can place significant strain on the healthcare system. Furthermore, as last year, the total number of hospitalisations this year is expected to be higher than the total number experienced prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Does the Commission intend to present similar analyses together with a forecast for producing a preliminary study of the epidemiological situation in Europe?
2. Given that it is for the national authorities to take the final decisions on vaccines, boosters, information campaigns and assessments of the epidemiological situation in the different population groups, does the Commission, together with the specialised agencies (EMA, ECDC, HaDEA), envisage special forms of ad hoc action plan to make recommendations to avoid a so-called tripledemic this autumn and winter?

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