

**Question for written answer E-000960/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Call for action and preventive measures at European level in the light of the serious epidemic of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome in Japan

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has recently issued a warning over the rising caseload of a rare, but severe, bacterial infection: streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS), dubbed the 'flesh-eating disease'. Cases have already exceeded more than half of last year's count, with 88 recorded in the capital alone and a total of 517 infections nationwide.

Caused by the bacterium group A streptococcus, this syndrome can lead to serious complications, such as necrosis of the connective tissues that cover the muscles, an infection of the subcutaneous tissue, necrotising fasciitis, multi-organ failure and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), which can result in haemorrhaging and thrombosis.

It is transmitted through respiratory droplets, direct contact, and wounds on the hands and feet.

Estimates suggest that of the people infected in the Japanese capital in 2023, around 30% succumbed to the disease.

In the light of these figures:

1. What steps will the Commission take to monitor and prevent the spread of this serious infection in Europe?
2. What action will it take to support the scientific research and the development of effective treatments and vaccines against STSS?

Submitted: 27.3.2024