

**Question for oral answer O-000009/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 128

**Renate Sommer, Elena Gentile, Bolesław G. Piecha, Gesine Meissner, Kateřina Konečná,  
Marco Affronte, Mireille D'Ornano**

on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: Vaccine hesitancy and the drop in vaccination rates in Europe

Vaccination is unquestionably one of the most cost-effective public health measures available. Widespread vaccination has eradicated smallpox and made Europe polio-free. All EU Member States recommend vaccination against serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. However, some vaccines remain undervalued and under-used. Despite, or perhaps because of, their public health impact, an increasing number of parents and patients are choosing to delay or refuse vaccines. Widespread vaccine hesitancy has become a worrying phenomenon due to the range of health-related consequences it causes in the Member States. Recent epidemiological data on the situation of vaccination in the Member States shows a significant drop in the use of vaccines.

Given the above:

- How does the Commission plan to address the resistance to vaccination?
- How does the Commission intend to ensure that a comprehensive EU Action Plan raising the social problem of vaccine hesitancy is drawn up?
- What concrete actions is the Commission planning to facilitate a more harmonised schedule for vaccinations across the EU?
- How does the Commission plan to address the spread of unreliable, misleading and unscientific information on vaccination and to further develop information campaigns aimed at providing more in-depth knowledge about vaccines and increasing vaccination coverage?

Tabled: 31.1.2018

Forwarded: 2.2.2018

Deadline for reply: 9.2.2018