

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0110/03
by Peter Liese (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Vaccination against smallpox in the Member States

Various preparations are currently being made in the Member States to combat possible terrorist attacks using the smallpox virus. Media reports have caused great alarm among the general public. Since the smallpox virus would obviously not stop at the frontiers of the Member States, an EU-wide approach is essential.

Does the European Commission have any information about the various strategies in the Member States? What plans are there for transfrontier coordination of the various strategies of the individual Member States? Can the Commission offer to assist the Member States, with particular regard to an assessment of the possible side effects of vaccination against smallpox? To what extent will it be possible to take advantage of the benefits of the single market in order to ensure that supplies of highly-effective vaccines which have minimal side effects are available in all the Member States as rapidly as possible when required?