

**Question for written answer P-003674/2012  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: The treatment and care of people with autism

According to the World Health Organization, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder which affects around 1 in 150 children.

The scarce data available at European level demonstrates that Europe has a two-speed approach to autism.

It is clear in fact that many Member States are lagging behind in the treatment and care of people with autism. This delay is caused not only by budgetary constraints, but also by a psychoanalytic approach that leaves no place for other educational and behavioural methods. Others have, however, opted for these educational and behavioural methods, which have proven successful for over 40 years. Spain, Belgium, Sweden and the United Kingdom have adopted this approach.

More broadly, the four main challenges to be addressed are the promotion of early detection, the generalisation of multidisciplinary approaches including educational strategies, improved training of professionals and the availability of childcare facilities tailored to the age and profile of people with autism.

On 15 November 2010, Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, announced the adoption of the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020.

1. Given the scale and urgency of the challenges of dealing with autism, has the Commission planned specific measures to encourage and support Member States in the development of a public policy for autism that is both effective and respectful? If so, what are these measures? If not, does the Commission envisage doing so?
2. Moreover, has the Commission set up a European programme first of all, to support the associations involved in autism treatment and awareness-building, and secondly, to promote an exchange of good practices between Member States? If not, does the Commission envisage doing so?