

**Question for written answer P-001291/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Susy De Martini (ECR)

Subject: Health - Prevention and the European Semester

Given that:

- preventive medicine is vital in order to reduce the cost of national health care systems as well as the incidence of disease and the adverse effects on the public;
 - in November 2011 the Council and Parliament adopted the legislative package known as the ‘six-pack’ (Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011; Regulation (EU) No 1174/2011; Regulation (EU) No 1175/2011; Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011; Regulation (EU) No 1177/2011; and Directive 2011/85/EU of 8 November 2011), which marked the start of the ‘European Semester’;
 - the European Semester process allows the Commission to make recommendations to Member States concerning the implementation of fiscal and macroeconomic policies and to suggest structural reforms, which can extend to health;
 - the Annual Growth Survey 2014, which lays down the priorities for the European Semester now under way (COM(2013)0800), recommends that the Member States’ health care systems be reformed in order to make them efficient and sustainable so that they can effectively serve to meet people’s needs;
 - in a written question tabled on 20 November 2013 the questioner asked the Commission whether preventive medicine had been included in the suggested reform package for Italy with a view to making its national health care system more sustainable and improving public health;
 - replying to that question on 27 January 2014, the Commission stated that it had not made any specific recommendation to Italy, but had recommended that Austria, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, and Slovenia focus more strongly on prevention within the context of long-term care;
1. Can the Commission say why it has not made any recommendation calling for reform of expenditure under the Italian health care system, bearing in mind that this accounts for such a substantial portion of the state budget?
 2. Can it explicitly include prevention in the reform package to be suggested to Italy in the next European Semester?