

**Question for written answer P-004141/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)

Subject: The Biocidal Products Regulation and microbial resistance

It has been noted by leading experts in the field of human healthcare infection control that the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) will result in a major loss of effective biocidal active ingredients (disinfectants) across Europe. This, worryingly, is likely to stifle innovation, leading to only a handful of disinfectant chemicals and formulations being on the market in Europe in the coming years.

Of even greater concern is the fact that this will lead to microbial resistance (this has already been shown to be happening now) to those few commercially available disinfectants that make it to the market. This will result in the appearance of new superbugs, resistant to cleaning and disinfecting chemicals, leading to thousands of lives being at risk across Europe.

Would the Commission agree that this situation is to a large extent the result of the excessive burden of cost on biocidal active producers and on disinfectant formulators in the infection control industry, who will either drop non-profit making lines, or if they are an SME be forced to leave the market?

Further to this, does the Commission recognise that Europe will effectively have no commercially available antibiotics or disinfectants to combat superbugs, and that a catastrophic European pandemic will be waiting to happen unless the BPR is rescinded, or at the very least extensively amended?