

**Priority question for written answer P-001348/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lack of progress on eliminating viral hepatitis in the European Union / European Economic Area

The latest evidence provided by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) shows that hepatitis B and C are being diagnosed late, and there has been no significant decrease in total mortality from liver cancer and chronic liver diseases at the EU/EEA level. This is concerning, especially given the high estimated mortality from these diseases in the EU/EEA. Although Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union determines that providing health services is an exclusive competence of the Member States, the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) coordinates the Expert Group on Public Health (EGPH) which includes representatives of EU/EEA Ministries of Health. Given the importance of improving access to testing and treatment, early detection, vaccination coverage, promoting awareness and education:

1. What measures is the Commission taking to address the underachievement of the WHO 2020 targets for diagnosed cases of hepatitis B and C among those living with chronic infections, and to improve the timely diagnosis of these infections?
2. What actions could the Commission take to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatitis B and C?
3. How can the Commission ensure that Member States discuss best practices and measures against viral hepatitis within the EGPB?

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