

**Question for written answer E-014688/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Soledad Cabezón Ruiz (S&D)**

Subject: Thalidomide victims in Spain

The Thalidomide crisis of the 1960s was such an extraordinary awful event that it spurred the creation of the EU's pharmacovigilance system. However, the response provided to the victims of that crisis has differed. Surviving Thalidomide victims in Spain are the only ones not to have received compensation from the pharmaceutical company concerned. After a long struggle, the Spanish Supreme Court ruled on 23 September 2015 that the approximately 500 Thalidomide survivors in Spain were not entitled to compensation from the German pharmaceutical company Grünenthal, since the offence was now time-barred. This ruling marked the end of the road at national level legally speaking, but cannot also be the end of the road politically.

Commission Andriukaitis has undertaken to meet those concerned and to try to find a political solution at EU level. Can the Commission state, in this respect:

1. Whether it does not feel it high time for those affected to be compensated fairly, regardless of who has competence for that decision and of legal time limits?
2. Whether it is considering taking any form of action at a political level to end this injustice and ensure that the survivors are compensated as soon as possible?