

**Question for written answer E-014786/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Gaps in the implementation of the International Health Regulations and mechanisms for pandemic protection and response

Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said this week that the world was ill-prepared to respond to another crisis like Ebola. Ms Chan reported that only one third of the 194 countries that had signed the International Health Regulations (IHRs) are complying with their minimum requirements and only one third of countries have an early warning system.

In view of the importance of IHRs as a means of responding to new pandemics, the ineffectiveness of the early warning system as demonstrated during the Ebola crisis, and the guidelines for EU-WHO cooperation as set out in the Moscow Declaration of 2010:

1. Does the Commission believe that the International Health Regulations are being fully implemented in all the Member States?
2. Has it considered establishing a programme designed for EU partner countries and donors and aimed at guaranteeing universal health coverage and the sharing of health risks?
3. How will it tackle the weaknesses in healthcare systems in developing countries and provide support for health security in the fields of prevention, early warning and response, with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Objectives and complying with the International Health Regulations?