

**Question for written answer E-015163/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
István Ujhelyi (S&D)**

Subject: Action for premature babies

The proportion of babies born prematurely in Hungary is extraordinarily high, more than 1.5 times the European average, and this figure has not fallen over the last 20 years. This alarming trend means that researchers are already treating the dangerous consequences of this situation as almost an endemic problem. The number of premature babies in Europe has already reached half a million a year, but the statistics show a significant divergence between the Member States. This can no longer be explained solely by the differing quality of healthcare: the social situation and differences in health culture also play a role. World Prematurity Day on 17 November once again accentuates decision-makers' responsibility to take substantial action aimed at effectively increasing the proportion of healthy survival among newborns.

What successful methods exist? For example, how can and must parents be more effectively encouraged to make use of nursing services?

How can the Commission promote the exchange of information between prematurity experts in different Member States, and encourage participation in international data services and research projects?

How can the Commission help ensure that there is not a substantial difference in Europe, owing to differences between Member States, in the survival chances for premature babies, and in their chances of growing up without abnormalities?