

**Question for written answer E-001647/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Bajada (S&D)

Subject: The EU's preparedness with regard to the mpox epidemic caused by monkeypox virus clade I

The World Health Organization has declared the current mpox epidemic caused by monkeypox virus clade I a 'public health emergency of international concern'. Reports indicate that children account for more than 70 % of mpox cases and 85 % of mpox deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Solidarity cooperation by Member States and preparedness efforts by the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) have aided the mobilisation of vaccines to Africa.

To date, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has reported that monkeypox virus clade I presents a low risk to Europe's general population. Nevertheless, irrespective of which clade is causing the current epidemic, it is still of concern to European citizens because mpox cases are increasing in the Member States. It is therefore imperative that the EU ensure coordinated and effective preparedness.

Given its role in guiding health policy and crisis management, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What specific strategies is the Commission adopting to enhance preparedness across the Member States in terms of public health coordination and cross-border cooperation?
2. How are the Member States' health authorities preparing to counter the potential threat, also given the increase in domestic cases?
3. What is the current supply of vaccines in the EU, and how is HERA ensuring preparedness to mobilise vaccines in the Member States?

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