

**Question for oral answer O-000035/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 128

**Françoise Grossetête, Mairead McGuinness, Esteban González Pons**

on behalf of the PPE Group

**Matthias Groote, Pavel Poc, Nicola Caputo, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz**

on behalf of the S&D Group

**Julie Girling, Bolesław G. Piecha**

on behalf of the ECR Group

**Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

**Kateřina Konečná, Stefan Eck, Eleonora Forenza, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Lynn Boylan,**

**Miguel Urbán Crespo, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Barbara Spinelli, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Fabio**

**De Masi, Jiří Maštálka, Merja Kyllönen, Ángela Vallina, Paloma López Bermejo, Patrick Le**

**Hyaric, Tania González Peñas, Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Marisa Matias**

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Bas Eickhout, Jill Evans**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Piernicola Pedicini, Eleonora Evi, Marco Affronte, David Borrelli, Marco Zullo, Rosa D'Amato,**

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Isabella Adinolfi, Laura Ferrara, Tiziana Beghin, Rolandas Paksas,**

**Peter Lundgren, Tim Aker, William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, John Stuart Agnew**

on behalf of the EFDD Group

Subject: Thalidomide

In 2015, the Commission celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first pharmaceutical legislation in Europe to guarantee the security of medicines. The thalidomide tragedy was one of the main reasons for setting up the EU pharmaceutical legislation, which has been improved ever since to ensure that medicinal products which are placed on the market guarantee high standards of quality and safety. The EU law on medicines in Europe is therefore intrinsically connected with this tragedy.

Thalidomide was used as a medicine to alleviate morning sickness in pregnant women, as well as to treat headaches, insomnia, and colds, at the end of the 1950s and beginning of the 1960s. This treatment was commercialised in various European countries for several years, and it turned out to have severe side effects for pregnant women, whose babies were born with birth malformations. This tragedy affected several EU countries, whose victims are still trying to find a solution to cover the costs of their medical and physical conditions, which are worsening over the years.

In this context, can the Commission please detail what action has been, and will be, taken at EU level to provide effective support and assistance to victims of thalidomide and their families? As thalidomide was prescribed in several European countries, does the Commission believe that there should be a framework protocol at European level, in which all European citizens affected by thalidomide receive similar compensation regardless of which Member State they are from?

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