Question for written answer E-003473/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Seb Dance (S&D)

Subject: Prevention and early diagnosis of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Most cases of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are preventable because risk factors, such as smoking and exposure to chemical irritants, can be addressed. The EU must continue to promote healthy lifestyles as the only sustainable way forward. This will allow earlier detection and should be implemented as a population-based, quality-assured screening programme.

Poor external air quality has a significant negative impact on overall health and quality of life, and particularly for those living with COPD: Air pollution can exacerbate the condition and lead to more people being hospitalised, imposing a high cost on society.

1. How does the Commission plan to help Member States to refocus healthcare on prevention rather than care?

2. Does the Commission plan any additional action to tackle air pollution in addition to the proposed revision of the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive?