

# EP 14 December, 2016

## Commission statement - Support for Thalidomide victims

21:44/21:49 - 14-12-2016

You can also watch the Live on EbS: [access to the schedule](#)



Current subject

Subject List

Speaker on the subject

- 21:44 ANDRIUKAITIS, Vytenis Povilas
- 21:48 GONZÁLEZ PONS, Esteban
- 21:50 MELIOP, Susanna



## Oral question - Paediatric medicines

22:15 / 22:38 - 14-12-2016

You can also watch the Live on EbS: [access to the schedule](#)



Original language (or) ▾

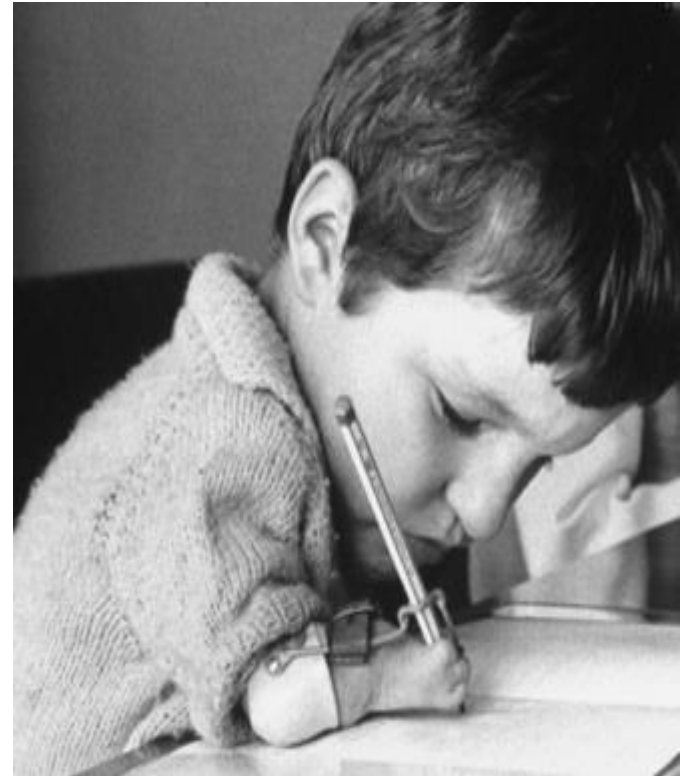
Current speaker

 **Vytenis Povilas ANDRIUKAITIS**  
Lithuania

# THE THALIDOMIDE TRAGEDY: LESSONS FOR DRUG SAFETY AND REGULATION

By: Bara Fintel, Athena T. Samaras, Edson Carias  
Jul 28, 2009

*• Thalidomide first entered the German market in 1957 as an over-the-counter remedy, based on the maker's safety claims. They advertised their product as "completely safe" for everyone, including mother and child, "even during pregnancy," as its developers "could not find a dose high enough to kill a rat." By 1960, thalidomide was marketed in 46 countries, with sales nearly matching those of aspirin. Around this time, Australian obstetrician Dr. William McBride discovered that the drug also alleviated morning sickness. He started recommending this off-label use of the drug to his pregnant patients, setting a worldwide trend*



**Only in Germany 161 babies were affected**