

**Question for written answer E-002486/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Support for patients affected by myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome

Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a chronic illness that causes extreme exhaustion, cognitive dysfunction, chronic pain and a range of other symptoms. Many ME/CFS patients remain ill for decades and an estimated 25 % of ME/CFS patients are house- or bed-bound. The condition is estimated to affect 2 million individuals across Europe. There is currently no diagnostic test, no approved treatment and no cure for ME/CFS. Although the pathology of ME/CFS remains poorly understood, the illness is often triggered by an infection. Many patients with severe long COVID suffer from a similar syndrome and experts estimate that the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically increased the prevalence of ME/CFS.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 18 June 2020¹ in which it listed several EU-level actions required to help tackle the impacts of ME/CFS.

What will the new Commission do to finally:

1. Advocate for better recognition of ME/CFS as a legitimate health condition?
2. Ensure significant funding for biomedical research into ME/CFS at EU level, prioritising calls in this specific area?
3. Promote EU-level measures and funding for awareness campaigns about ME/CFS, medical education and training for health and social care professionals, and the exchange of ME/CFS-related best practice across Member States?

Submitted: 11.11.2024

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020IP0140>.