Question for written answer E-000820/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: A set of measures to support cancer startups

There are around 1 027 cancer startups in the EU (1 325 in the US), with 41.6 % in the early stage of development, while 34.7 % are still in the seed stage[1].

In contrast, US companies are growing faster, with 40 % of them being at a more advanced stage (compared to 24 % in the EU) and holding significantly larger patent portfolios (in technologies such as cellular immunotherapy, gene therapy and image analysis) than their European counterparts. US-based companies hold 82 % more international patents than their EU counterparts, while startups and early-stage companies exceed EU portfolios by 58 % and 56 %, respectively.

In view of the above:

1. What actions will the Commission take to ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of global cancer research?

2. In view of the Startup Strategy, how will the Commission enhance access to finance, and is the Commission considering the creation of a European initiative to enhance the participation of institutional investors in venture capital?

3. How will the Commission support startups in securing and strategically using their intellectual property rights?

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[1] European Patent Office, New frontiers in oncology: an evolving innovation ecosystem, 2025.