

Question for written answer E-004997/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: EU Strategy for early screening of type 1 diabetes and support for Member States

The incidence of type 1 diabetes is increasing, currently affecting over 410 000 patients aged 0-18 in Europe, with about 10 000 new cases each year. It is caused by an autoimmune attack that destroys pancreatic beta cells, which produce insulin. If undiagnosed, it often leads to diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), with severe clinical consequences such as cognitive impairment in children and higher healthcare costs. Around 40 % of new paediatric cases present with DKA.

The EU currently lacks a pre-symptomatic screening programme, creating inequalities in access to early diagnosis and care between Member States. The Italian Law No. 130/2023 offers a replicable model, identifying the disease in its pre-symptomatic phase through autoantibody detection using advanced non-invasive technologies.

In the light of recent Commission commitments to reinforce common health strategies:

1. Does the Commission intend to develop an EU-level strategy for the early detection of autoimmune type 1 diabetes, inspired by the Italian model?
2. How will the Commission support Member States in establishing infrastructure for early detection and ensuring access to timely diagnosis and medical technologies?
3. How will early detection of autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes be integrated into existing or future EU frameworks on non-communicable diseases, health promotion or digital health?

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