

Question for written answer E-003129/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Need for a European strategy on menopause and the integration of menopause into EU health and employment policies with dedicated funding

Menopause is a natural life stage affecting millions of women and has a major impact¹ on their physical and mental health, working life² and overall quality of life. In spite of this, menopause care is still not sufficiently integrated into the EU's public health and employment policies³. Between the Member States, there are significant discrepancies in early diagnosis, information, training of health professionals, access to appropriate health services and support for women in the workplace. Only some have developed national menopause policies, while others, such as Greece, do not have a framework on this particular matter.

In view of the need for a more systematic integration of the gender aspect into health and employment policies, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it plan to propose the development of a European strategy on menopause care?
2. What measures does it intend to take to help women in the workplace during pre-menopause, menopause and post-menopause, with a view to supporting them and preventing discrimination?
3. Does it intend to propose dedicated funding for research and innovation, the inclusion of menopause in EU public health programmes, combating menopause poverty, improving information and awareness and collecting comparable data on the impact of menopause on women's health and employment and on health systems?

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¹ According to the European Institute of Women's Health and surveys of post-menopausal women, up to 90 % reported having experienced symptoms at some point during the menopausal transition, with approximately half considering their symptoms bothersome (<https://eurohealth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Menopause-Policy-Brief.pdf>).

² Menopausal women are the fastest growing group in the labour force, currently accounting for 11 % of the labour force in the G7 countries alone, a figure that is expected to increase in the coming years as the population ages (<https://podcast.ilo.org/episode/is-the-menopause-a-workplace-issue>).

³ The transition to menopause is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular, metabolic and neurological diseases, but EU prevention strategies rarely address these links in a systematic manner (see European Parliament 2025 Report on Gender Inequalities in Medical Research, Drug Development and Access to Care).