

**Question for written answer E-003707/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
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**Subject:** Gender gap in cardiovascular health and clinical research

Cardiovascular diseases continue to be the leading cause of death for women in Europe. However, for years, it has been approached from predominantly male-focused paradigms. Many women are still being underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed as a result. What is more, their under-representation in cardiovascular research and clinical trials continues to limit data quality and perpetuates structural biases.

These differences affect separate stages of the care cycle, from prevention to diagnosis, treatment and clinical follow-up, and they are acknowledged in the gender equality strategy 2026-2030 and the healthy hearts plan. At the same time, the 10th framework programme and the role played by the European Medicines Agency provide an opportunity to step up prevention, early diagnosis, personalised medicine and the generation of more accurate clinical evidence.

In the light of the above:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the precise and measurable targets introduced in the healthy hearts plan reduce the cardiovascular gap between women and men?
2. What steps will it take to secure balanced participation for women in cardiovascular clinical trials?
3. How will it ensure that gender- and sex-specific considerations are systematically included in cardiovascular research and clinical trials?

Submitted: 16.9.2026