

**Question for written answer E-003750/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Combating serophobia and the European regulatory framework against HIV-related discrimination

On 24 August 2026, Christophe Paco, who is HIV-positive and had been harassed by his neighbours for more than a year, began a hunger strike in Reims to call for a law recognising serophobia as his complaints had been dismissed. Joined by influencer Nicolas Aragona, who received online death threats, he took his action as far as Paris. After nine days on hunger strike, the pair were received by Deputy Minister Aurore Bergé, who pledged to strengthen the fight against discrimination.

While discrimination based on health status is already prohibited, serophobia is not specifically identified or penalised anywhere. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, one in eight people living with HIV is denied access to care in the EU due to stigma. More than 50% of the population say they hold discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, and 20% of people living with HIV have experienced verbal harassment because of their HIV status.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to require Member States to explicitly recognise serophobia in their anti-discrimination legislation and to incorporate the fight against serophobia – through funding under the EU4Health programme – into its strategy on sexual and reproductive health?
2. Does it intend to relaunch the Equal Treatment Directive that has been blocked in the Council since 2008?
3. What measures does it plan to take to improve training for healthcare professionals on non-transmission of HIV, given that 39% are still unaware of this?

Submitted: 18.9.2026