

EN
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Answer given by Mr Varhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.1.2025)

1. The Commission recognises the significant medical and socioeconomic consequences of Long COVID and remains committed to supporting effective responses across these areas. The Network of Expertise on Long COVID (NELC), established within the Commission in 2023, aims to strengthen the response to Long COVID. The NELC brings together 39 institutions from 20 Member States and Iceland, working on Long COVID, and it provides a platform for exchanges of national experiences on diagnosis, treatment, and management of Long COVID¹.

Within this group, the Commission promotes relevant research on Long COVID by providing updates on EU-funded projects and by inviting participants to relevant projects or initiatives to share their results to ensure that research results inform the development of efficient public health policies.

In addition, a dedicated stakeholder network has been created within the EU Health Policy Platform. It serves to share relevant insights and access resources related to Long COVID, including recent scientific publications.

2. The Commission is currently launching an EU4Health project on Long COVID with the World Health Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It will include enhancing Long COVID management through international collaboration on clinical guidelines based on evidence. These guidelines will help Member States to support patients of Long COVID.

3. There is a need for paediatric Long COVID care for children and adolescents. The Commission aims to ensure that it is adequately considered and discussed in all ongoing efforts. The Commission's patient support initiative is inclusive, aiming to serve all population groups, regardless of age.

¹ More information can be found on the Commission's website: https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health/network-expertise-long-covid_en