

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002260/25  
to the Commission  
Tomasz Froelich (ESN)  
(4 June 2025)**

*Subject:* Underinvestment in endometriosis research

Endometriosis is a disorder that affects an estimated 200 million people worldwide and around 14 million women in Europe.

Endometriosis is associated with a range of often debilitating symptoms, including severe pelvic pain, bowel symptoms and a risk of infertility <sup>(1)</sup>.

Endometriosis has a substantial economic impact, with direct healthcare costs, indirect costs related to lost productivity at work, and the financial burden of infertility treatments. Women with endometriosis need multiple medical consultations, diagnostic tests and treatments.

The cost of endometriosis-associated sick leave for the EU is estimated at EUR 30 billion annually.

Endometriosis is substantially under-represented in projects funded at EU level. Only 27 out of 145 983 projects funded in total (0.02%) were related to endometriosis. Other non-malignant disorders received considerably more funds: 735 funded projects for depression, 410 for anxiety, etc. Gender-related autoimmune diseases received more funding than endometriosis. In addition, funding was mainly dedicated to the diagnosis of the disease, while few projects focused on treatment <sup>(2)</sup>.

1. Does the Commission agree that the funding dedicated to endometriosis at EU level is not aligned with the enormous burden attributable to the disease in the EU?

2. What are the reasons for this substantial under-representation of endometriosis among projects funded at EU level?

Submitted: 4.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission  
(20 August 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the significant impact that endometriosis has on individuals and healthcare systems. The EU is at the forefront of supporting research and innovation with the aim to improve and protect the health and well-being of citizens by developing innovative solutions to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases.

Over EUR 1.3 billion have been invested in more than 700 research and innovation projects related to women's health and gynaecological diseases through the EU framework programmes for research and innovation, Horizon 2020 <sup>(1)</sup> and Horizon Europe <sup>(2)</sup>.

Recognising the challenges and the burden these conditions place on those affected, the Commission is committed to fund research on women's health and gynaecological diseases, including endometriosis, so that health priorities align with the broader needs of the population.

The Commission does not intend to focus call topics specifically addressing particular health conditions in Horizon Europe. Horizon Europe offers a variety of funding opportunities for health research <sup>(3)</sup>, through calls for proposals that are broadly defined and open for innovative approaches to address specific call requirements.

All proposals, including those on endometriosis, submitted to these calls are evaluated by independent experts based on pre-defined criteria, focusing on excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation <sup>(4)</sup>.

In this regard, the quality of proposed research in submitted proposals is defining which projects will be funded and contributes to the thematic research portfolio.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44294-024-00048-6>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949838423000464>.

<sup>(1)</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> Information about currently open and upcoming funding opportunities for health research including on gynaecological diseases, e.g. endometriosis, can be found through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes\\_horizon-2025\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf).