

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003429/25
to the Commission
Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew), Maria Walsh (PPE)
(4 September 2025)**

Subject: Awareness of menopause in the EU and an EU strategy on menopause

Menopause remains an under-researched and insufficiently recognised gender-specific health issue that affects women, with significant implications for both their private and professional lives. By 2030, the global population of women aged between 45 and 55 is expected to approach 500 million, representing approximately 6% of the world's population. The transition through perimenopause and menopause is associated with a range of symptoms that can have an impact on health, well-being and productivity, thereby making it a workplace issue.

While the EU is a champion in promoting gender equality and women's rights, menopause remains largely invisible in EU policies and programmes, despite its cross-cutting relevance to public health, education, employment and demography. Furthermore, there is a lack of data on menopause across the EU, which hinders evidence-based policymaking and the development of targeted measures.

In the light of the above:

1. What current initiatives is the Commission undertaking to raise awareness of menopause as a universal, gender-specific health issue?
2. Is the Commission considering the development of a dedicated EU menopause strategy aimed at raising awareness, improving data collection, bridging policy gaps and providing guidance and recommendations to the Member States in order to improve women's health, well-being and participation in all areas of society?

Submitted: 4.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(19 November 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the gender-specific health issues related to menopause, which can affect women's well-being and participation in society.

The Commission is mainstreaming gender in its health policy and supports relevant actions, e.g. with funding from the EU4Health Programme ⁽¹⁾.

The Roadmap for Women's Rights ⁽²⁾ and particularly principle 2 of the Declaration of principles for a gender-equal society ⁽³⁾ promote women's right to the highest standards of physical and mental health, including through access to evidence-based information on women's health and sexuality and to sexual and reproductive health and rights, through supporting and complementing health actions by Member States, in full respect of the Treaties. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽⁴⁾ will include concrete measures mainstreaming gender across different areas.

While the Commission is not planning a dedicated EU strategy on menopause, several projects addressing the social and medical impact of menopause are funded under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe ⁽⁵⁾.

These aim — among others — to improve diagnosis and monitoring of symptoms through Artificial Intelligence and telemedicine, and to understand better the health impacts of menopause, including those related to breast cancer and cardiovascular risks.

Horizon Europe, with its broadly defined calls, provides further opportunities to support research and innovation on issues related to women's health ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/eu-roadmap-womens-rights-renewed-push-gender-equality-2025-03-07_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/7d965089-e332-473a-88a9-e246f214e3bf_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14611-Gender-Equality-Strategy-2026-2030_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

Furthermore, the Commission supports national efforts to address non-communicable diseases and to improve mental health with a focus on women and other vulnerable groups, through the Healthier Together initiative ⁽⁷⁾ and the communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁷⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d843d53e-c1c1-4664-b31e-febf618d011a_en?filename=eu-ncd-initiative_publication_en_0.pdf.

⁽⁸⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cef45b6d-a871-44d5-9d62-3cecc47eda89_en?filename=com_2023_298_1_act_en.pdf.