

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004143/25
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(21 October 2025)

Subject: Ensuring adequate funding for public health under the new multiannual financial framework

The European Commission's proposal for the multiannual financial framework 2028-2034 does not include a separate fund for public health as a successor to the EU4Health programme.

The absorption of health together with biotechnology into the broader Competitiveness Fund also raises questions about the lack of prioritisation of public health.

It is recalled that in its recent report, Parliament underlines its belief that the next MFF 'must build on the work done during the current programming period by ensuring that the necessary investments are made to build a genuine European Health Union that will benefit all citizens'.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure adequate funding in the next MFF for public health and the building of a genuine European Health Union that benefits all citizens?
2. How will the Commission ensure that investments in public health are strengthened, maintain their autonomy within the next MFF and are not absorbed by other conflicting objectives?

Submitted: 21.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 December 2025)

The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 ('MFF')⁽¹⁾ aims to enhance the EU's capacity to deliver on core policies such as health policy priorities, including public health.

The proposed European Competitiveness Fund⁽²⁾ includes a policy window on Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy with a dedicated budget of EUR 20.4 billion in current prices.

Complementing this amount, EUR 19.65 billion would be available for collaborative research and innovation activities under the proposal for Horizon Europe for the period 2028-2034⁽³⁾.

Among other activities, the Commission would foster health promotion and disease prevention, and strengthen the efficiency and resilience of health systems.

Enhancing the growth of health and biotechnologies would not only increase the competitiveness of the health and biotech sector but also help to ensure the availability of essential medicinal products, medical devices and digital solutions.

New and updated Country-Specific Recommendations on health in the coming European Semesters are envisaged to help guide Member States in prioritising reforms and investments under the National and Regional Partnership Plans, as proposed for the new MFF.

The proposal for a new Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response- UCPM-HER legislative proposal⁽⁴⁾ — aims to harness synergies between EU action on civil protection and health emergency preparedness and response.

⁽¹⁾ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 COM/2025/570 final.

⁽²⁾ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund ('ECF'), including the specific programme for defence research and innovation activities, repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/522, (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/697, (EU) 2021/783, repealing provisions of Regulations (EU) 2021/696, (EU) 2023/588, and amending Regulation (EU) [EDIP] COM/2025/555 final.

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation, for the period 2028-2034 laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/695, COM/2025/543 final, Article 6 (2) (b) (i): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0543>.

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response, and repealing Decision No 1313/2013/EU (Union Civil Protection Mechanism, COM/2025/548 final.

Overall, the Commission proposes that EUR 10.7 billion are available under this new UCPM-HER legislative proposal.
