

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004571/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(17 November 2025)**

Subject: The availability of Teplizumab for type 1 diabetes patients — regional inequalities in access to treatment and technologies

Recently authorised by the European Medicines Agency, Teplizumab is the first kind of immunotherapy to delay the onset of type 1 diabetes. In Italy, the drug is only available in a few major centres. Despite the large number of cases of type 1 diabetes in Sicily and Sardinia, access there is limited. There are also widespread inequalities in respect of sensors, insulin pumps and hybrid systems, which are regulated by EU law ⁽¹⁾. The availability and reimbursement arrangements of these vary from region to region. Under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Regulation (EU) 2021/522, the EU is committed to reducing unequal access to treatment.

In the light of the above:

1. What steps will the Commission take, including by means of the EU4Health programme and cooperation between the Member States, to reduce time to access and mitigate disparities in the availability of Teplizumab, not least in disadvantaged regions?
2. Will it seek to propose dedicated funding for diabetes research in the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework?
3. With a view to mitigating inequality of access to innovative technologies, how will it help set up databases on type 1 diabetes and plan for the medical devices needed in places like Sicily, where incidence of the disease is high?

Submitted: 17.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(23 February 2026)**

According to Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ⁽¹⁾, Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of their health services and medical care.

Principle 16 of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan ⁽²⁾ underscores the right to healthcare of good quality that is affordable.

The Commission supports Member States in upholding this principle through projects aimed at systemic improvements of health systems, such as affordability of healthcare ⁽³⁾, fairer distribution of health benefits ⁽⁴⁾, and guidelines on access to healthcare for persons with disabilities ⁽⁵⁾.

Direct interventions on specific healthcare treatments remain under the competence of Member States. The Commission respects the Member States' responsibilities for managing their healthcare systems.

The Commission currently offers country-specific support to improve access to healthcare under the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽⁶⁾, the Technical Support Instrument ⁽⁷⁾, and the Cohesion Policy ⁽⁸⁾.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/745.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=en>.

⁽²⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/european-pillar-social-rights-building-fairer-and-more-inclusive-european-union/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

⁽³⁾ Some deliverables of the project published; [https://www.who.int/europe/teams/office-for-health-systems-financing-\(barcelona\)](https://www.who.int/europe/teams/office-for-health-systems-financing-(barcelona)).

⁽⁴⁾ The role of healthcare in reducing poverty; <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e86e91df-a97a-11f0-89c6-01aa75ed71a1>.

⁽⁵⁾ Guidelines on access to healthcare for people with disabilities: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c2959f58-d63d-11f0-8da2-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽⁶⁾ Recovery and Resilience Facility: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁽⁷⁾ Technical Support Instrument (TSI): https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en.

⁽⁸⁾ Cohesion Policy: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en.

Moreover, under the 'Healthier Together' initiative ⁽⁹⁾, financed under the EU4Health programme, the Commission will keep supporting Member States to work together on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes through the joint action JACARDI ⁽¹⁰⁾, that includes activities to improve the collection and quality of data on diabetes for better prevention and care.

As regards the next multiannual financial framework for 2028-2034, the Commission intends to continue to strive to improve and protect health, including through a focus on non-communicable diseases.

This will be done, in particular, as part of the activities of the 'Health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy' window of the European Competitiveness Fund.

⁽⁹⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en.

⁽¹⁰⁾ <https://jacardi.eu/>.