

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000249/26
to the Commission**

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(22 January 2026)

Subject: Can we continue to ignore the economic and social consequences of endometriosis in Europe?

Endometriosis affects around 10% of women of childbearing age, i.e. almost 2 million French women, with huge direct and indirect costs in France, estimated at several billion euro per year. These costs include repeated gynaecological consultations, prolonged sick leave (sufferers take up to 13 days off work every year on average), hospitalisation for surgery, and hormone or chronic pain treatment, in addition to the indirect losses stemming from reduced productivity and infertility. This condition puts single-parent and low-income families — already struggling as a result of inflation and the cost-of-living crisis — in an even more vulnerable situation, and threatens national demographics by contributing to 25-50% of infertility cases.

In the European Union, where more than 20 million women are affected, the cumulative economic impact could represent up to 0.5% of GDP in some Member States, increasing the burden on national social welfare systems, without Brussels having even carried out a thorough, up-to-date assessment.

Is the Commission going to publish without delay a comprehensive economic impact study on endometriosis in the EU, broken down by Member State, including direct costs (care), indirect costs (absenteeism and productivity) and societal costs (fertility and families), updated as of 1 January 2026?

Submitted: 22.1.2026

Answer given by Ms Labbib on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2026)

The Roadmap for Women's Rights⁽¹⁾ underlines the importance of women's health as part of gender equality. Challenges persist in advancing women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030⁽²⁾ mentions that women's health experiences and conditions, such as menstruation and endometriosis, have not received sufficient attention in health research or treatment.

In 2028, the Commission will launch a study on the economic and societal benefits of closing the women's health gap related to certain conditions, such as menopause. This could cover also endometriosis.

In order to protect women's health by supporting and complementing Member States' health action regarding women's access to SRHR, the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 announces a mapping of practices and international frameworks in this area, as well as a framework and methodology for systemic data collection to improve the evidence base on SRHR.

The Commission has mainstreamed and will continue to mainstream gender in health policy and research. The Commission supports Member States in reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)⁽³⁾, including conditions such as endometriosis, through the 'Healthier Together' EU NCD initiative⁽⁴⁾ with the financial support of the EU4Health programme⁽⁵⁾.

The commission also provides targeted funding on women's health issues⁽⁶⁾ — such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome — under the framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020⁽⁷⁾ and Horizon Europe⁽⁸⁾).

One example is the project EUmetriosis: Transforming endometriosis care in Europe: an integrated approach to enhance understanding, diagnosis, tailored management and patient empowerment⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0113&qid=1776936860701>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/overview_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-non-communicable-diseases-ncds-initiative-guidance-document_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/womens-health_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en.

⁽⁸⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101157146>.