

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000473/26
to the Commission
Victor Negrescu (S&D)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Reaffirming EU leadership in healthcare and eliminating regional medical disparities

The EU has committed to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. However, data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control shows uneven progress, and funding cuts which risks reversing decades of gains. With nearly 800 000 people living with HIV in the EU/EEA, certain states face high diagnosis rates and barriers to modern care. The lack of a strategic framework since 2016 leaves communities vulnerable and puts pressure on healthcare systems, particularly in Eastern Europe.

Considering the lack of a dedicated EU framework since the expiration of the EU action plan on HIV/AIDS in 2016:

1. Will the Commission launch a new EU HIV/AIDS action plan in 2026 focusing on inclusive prevention, education, and anti-stigma measures to meet UNAIDS 2030 targets?
2. What specific EU4Health and cohesion funding will be mobilised for high-incidence Member States to modernise screening and ensure equitable access to next-generation treatments?
3. How will the Commission translate HIV prioritisation within the Expert Group on Public Health into concrete performance indicators to reduce health gaps between EU regions?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(15 April 2026)**

The Commission is working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to implement the global HIV ⁽¹⁾ strategy. The Commission supports the WHO in monitoring surveillance data and progress towards international targets including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Projects funded under the EU4Health Programme ⁽²⁾ focus on supporting outreach and care for HIV patients with comorbidities, along with funding for research activities in this domain through Horizon Europe ⁽³⁾. The Commission intends to contribute to a planned UN General Assembly declaration on HIV in 2026.

The Cohesion Policy (2021-2027) supports the modernisation of screening and diagnostic infrastructure, deployment of e-health and community-based care models, and strengthening of the health workforce to improve prevention, early detection and equitable access to quality treatment, including in high-incidence Member States.

The EU Facility, a component of the National and Regional Partnership Fund under the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework ⁽⁴⁾, offers flexible implementation and funding, allowing quick responses, including support for health and safety policy. National and Regional Partnership Plans can focus on investments to reduce health disparities, ensuring equal access to quality healthcare.

The Commission discusses communicable diseases regularly in the Health Security Committee ⁽⁵⁾, which includes discussions on the challenges and prioritisation for response with the support of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

⁽²⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁽³⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽⁴⁾ COM (2025) 565.

⁽⁵⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/crisis-management_en#health-security-committee.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/hiv-infection-and-aids>.