

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000771/26
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(24 February 2026)**

Subject: Situation and measures regarding the post-polio syndrome in the EU

Post-polio syndrome (PPS) is a chronic and degenerative neuromuscular disease that affects people who survived polio decades ago. Although the disease has been practically eradicated in the EU thanks to vaccination, thousands of people are still living with severe sequelae and a progressive loss of function.

Patient associations report a lack of up-to-date data on prevalence, insufficient harmonised clinical protocols and a lack of reference centres in most Member States.

The group also calls for more training for healthcare staff, specific rehabilitation plans and better administrative and social recognition of the disease.

In this context:

1. Could the Commission promote the creation of a European network of reference points for PPS and include them in the strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the possible funding of treatments through the EU4Health programme?
2. What other concrete measures could the Commission take?

Submitted: 24.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(4 May 2026)**

Post-polio syndrome (PPS) is among the more than 6 000 rare and complex diseases and syndromes ⁽¹⁾. While the Commission does not address individual rare conditions separately, it supports the field of rare diseases through European Reference Networks (ERNs) ⁽²⁾, which are EU-level networks connecting medical expertise across Member States to improve timely diagnosis and high-quality care for patients with rare or complex conditions.

Many rare diseases, including post-polio syndrome, require coordinated input from multiple medical specialties. The ERNs facilitate this by enabling structured, multidisciplinary collaboration and alignment of expertise among healthcare providers across different Member States.

In this context, patients with PPS may benefit in particular from the activities of the ERN EURO-NMD ⁽³⁾ (Rare Neuromuscular Diseases), as well as, where relevant, the ERN-RND ⁽⁴⁾ (Rare Neurological Diseases).

Regarding funding, the Commission provides support to the ERNs through the EU4Health programme, allocating EUR 77.4 million to fund their activities until 2027.

The Commission also supports the work of Orphanet in developing and maintaining a comprehensive rare disease nomenclature and providing high-quality information for rare disease codification.

Collaborative research on rare diseases has been a long-standing priority for the Commission. Most recently, this includes the launch of the European Partnership on Rare Diseases under the European Rare Diseases Research Alliance ⁽⁵⁾, which further strengthens support for research and innovation in this field.

⁽¹⁾ Classified in the Orphanet nomenclature: <https://www.orpha.net/>.

⁽²⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/rare-diseases-and-european-reference-networks/european-reference-networks_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://ern-euro-nmd.eu/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.ern-rnd.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://erdera.org/>.