

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001292/26
to the Commission
Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE)
(27 March 2026)**

Subject: Ensuring that the fight against cancer remains a priority in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2028-2034

Cancer is one of the biggest public health challenges in the European Union, with around 2.7 million people diagnosed and 1.3 million deaths per year ⁽¹⁾. Beyond its human impact, cancer entails a social and economic burden by affecting health systems, productivity and the well-being of millions of citizens. Inequalities between Member States in prevention, early detection and access to treatment highlight the need for coordinated European action.

The EU has launched initiatives such as Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to strengthen prevention, improve early diagnosis and ensure equitable care. However, concerns have been raised in discussions on the next MFF that integrating health policies into broader financial instruments — such as the European Competitiveness Fund — may reduce visibility and resources for the fight against cancer.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the fight against cancer remains a priority in the next MFF?
2. What steps will the Commission take to prevent broader instruments from diluting these priorities?
3. Does the Commission intend to secure funding to continue Europe's Beating Cancer Plan?

Submitted: 27.3.2026

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

The Commission has proposed a redesign of the EU budget ⁽¹⁾, with more streamlined and harmonised spending programmes. The proposed European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) ⁽²⁾ includes a focus on healthcare and health technologies, aiming to support European competitiveness, while promoting innovation, private finance and industrial ecosystems.

Within the ECF, the health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy window (with an indicative budget of EUR 20.4 billion) is envisaged to support public health by addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases through targeted health promotion, disease prevention strategies and continued investments, including into the pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors. Cancer is mentioned among the eligible activities under the window (Article 37, point (a), of the proposal).

In addition, EUR 19.65 billion is indicatively allocated in the Horizon Europe 2028-2034 proposal for collaborative research under the same policy window.

Horizon Europe and the ECF are proposed to be closely connected via joint work programmes and governance, ensuring a closer link between research and industrial deployment including for health technologies.

The Commission also aims to bring together EU funds implemented by Member States and regions through National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP), which could be used to support health system investments and reforms in line with Article 3 of the proposed NRPP Regulation ⁽³⁾.

Finally, the proposed single expenditure and performance monitoring system for all relevant programmes aims to increase transparency and provide an overview of where EU funds are allocated and what they deliver.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/public-health/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.

⁽¹⁾ A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0570&qid=1753978048542>.

⁽²⁾ European Competitiveness Fund: https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0552>.