

EN

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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.10.2026)

The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights menopause's crucial role for women's healthy ageing and acknowledges its importance as a public health challenge and women's right imperative¹.

The EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030² (GES) recognises that women's health experiences and conditions, such as menstruation, menopause, endometriosis, and post-partum depression have not received sufficient attention in health research, diagnostics and treatment³. The Commission has planned to launch in 2028 a study on the macro- and micro-economic and societal benefits of closing the women's health gap related to certain conditions, like menopause, and will organise an exchange of best practices on measures to effectively combat menstrual and menopause poverty at national level.

1. At this stage there is no EU Strategy on menopause, and any measures to be taken fall under Member States remit.

2. In EU pharmaceutical policy, women's health is not driven or influenced by individual economic considerations but is based on an informed consideration of factors such as the representation of women in clinical research, persistent gaps in understanding sex-based differences in disease and treatment effects, and the need to better integrate these in the development and use of medicines.

3. The importance of addressing women's health has always been a priority for the Commission. Menopause is still not routinely integrated into primary healthcare and often remains socially stigmatised, which is why the Commission's GES draws attention to this issue. The Commission has not analysed to what extent industry-supported communication and lobbying activities have influenced policy priorities at EU level.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/menopause>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0113&qid=1776075756540>.

³ See, for example: European Parliament 2025 Report on Gender Inequalities in Medical Research, Drug Development and Access to Care:
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2025/778519/IUST_STU\(2025\)778519_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2025/778519/IUST_STU(2025)778519_EN.pdf).