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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.10.2026)

The Commission is not planning a European Strategy to tackle infertility, but is committed to supporting Member States through established frameworks and funding instruments.

Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care¹. Through the European Social Fund+ they can support access to infertility treatments for vulnerable persons, subject to national rules², and use the European Regional Development Fund to invest in the necessary infrastructure and equipment.

To complement Member States' actions on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women, the Commission will carry out a mapping of practices in this area and develop a framework and methodology for systemic data collection on SRHR, as announced in the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030³. Furthermore, the Commission will launch, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, a new initiative to monitor and analyse how to improve accessibility and quality of healthcare for women.

Moreover, the EU4Health Programme has funded actions on sexually transmitted infections⁴, and on the safety, quality and efficacy of assisted reproduction therapies⁵, while Horizon Europe⁶ Cluster 1 'Health'⁷ may also fund collaborative projects on infertility.

The Commission's proposal for the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 prioritises investments in health and health research, under the European Competitiveness Fund. The 'Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy' policy window will continue to fund health-related projects. The MFF also provides that demographic change will be addressed as an objective of national and regional partnership plans.

¹ See Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

² See Article 4(1), point (k), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 - The European Social Fund Plus Regulation:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1057/oj/eng>.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, COM/2026/113 final.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=es_SortDate&keywords=sti&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43332642.

⁵ EuMAR - European monitoring of Medically Assisted Reproduction, 2021 WP – HS-g-17.3.1 Call for proposals: action grants to organise and collect data to understand the safety, quality and efficacy of therapies applied in the field of assisted reproduction and based on haematopoietic stem cells.

⁶ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁷ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-1-health_en.