

**Question for written answer E-005826/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fibromyalgia

Fibromyalgia is a rheumatic condition affecting mainly the muscles, ligaments and tendons. It causes chronic pain, sleep problems, morning stiffness and fatigue, frequently leaving sufferers unable to continue working and resulting in depression. Research shows that 1-3% of the general population suffers from the disease¹. In Europe, one-fifth of those affected are incapable of paid employment².

In 2008, the European Parliament adopted in Written Declaration 0069/2008 which calls, among other things, for a strategy to identify this condition as a disease.

The European Network of Fibromyalgia Associations (ENFA) represents patients in Europe and, according to a survey carried out in 2014, 25% of sufferers are not receiving the appropriate treatment.

In view of this:

- Has the Commission initiated a strategy to identify this condition as a disease leading to exhaustion and sometimes even impotence and, if not, why not?
- What action has it taken to help ensure that health professionals, patients and the general public are kept informed and to raise their awareness?
- Why is improved access to early diagnosis / treatment not being encouraged in the Member States?

¹ White K, Speechless M, Earth M, Østbye T. The London fibromyalgia epidemiology study: the prevalence of fibromyalgia syndrome in London, Ontario. *J Rheumatol.* 1999; 26: 1570-1576.

² Global Fibromyalgia Impact Survey.