

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3469/03

by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Phillip Whitehead (PSE), Catherine Stihler (PSE) and Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Post-polio syndrome

During two meetings of the Council of the European Union, the 2384th (Health, 15.11.2001, Brussels) and the 2470th (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, 2-3.12.2002), the Council took note of statements made by the Belgian Presidency and the Irish delegation on the need for action at EU level to provide an adequate response to sufferers of post-polio syndrome (PPS).

Can the Commission comment on the kind of action which has already been taken on this matter, more specifically, on the level of:

1. information about the incidence of PPS within the EU, its onset, and availability of current research;
2. treatment available in the Member States for PPS sufferers to rehabilitate them and remedy their condition.
3. What funds for research and treatment have been made available from the Community budget?

In the absence of any such action hitherto, what is the justification for this lack of follow-up?