

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3338/05
by Emanuel Fernandes (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Rheumatic illnesses

More than 100 m people in the EU, of all age groups, are suffering from arthritis. This illness is the main cause of physical incapacity; rheumatic illnesses can be severely painful and can cause invalidity. Their victims can, however, still live a full and independent life, but need appropriate help. Those affected are often the victims of social exclusion and reduced life expectancy.

It is the responsibility of the Union and its Member States to create the conditions required to combat this illness, in view of its devastating effects on people who are European citizens.

Can the Commission state what measures it intends to take and promote, in cooperation with the Member States, in order to improve means of dealing with an illness that affects large numbers of European citizens?