

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1391/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Support for breast cancer research under the Seventh Research Framework Programme

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in the European Union and the commonest cancer in women. Some 35 % of women with breast cancer are aged under 55, and some 12% are even under 45. There are hereditary forms of the disease which above all occur in women at a young age. However, the spontaneously-occurring forms of breast cancer, which probably result from interaction between genetic and environmental factors, are far more common. It is known, for example, that environmental toxins such as DDT/DDE, HCB, HCH, pyrethroids, PCP and PCB play a role in carcinogenesis.

On 25 October 2006 the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to provide financial support for breast cancer research - both applied research and research into the causes of breast cancer - under the Seventh Research Framework Programme.

1. To what extent has funding for applied breast cancer research and research into the causes of breast cancer been made available under the Seventh Research Framework Programme? Does this include research into causes relating to the triggering of breast cancer by hazardous chemicals? If so, to what extent?
2. Is the Commission otherwise supporting research into the causes of breast cancer, in particular with regard to the interaction between environmental toxins and genetic predisposition, and into combating breast cancer? If so, under what programmes and to what extent?