

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1479/10

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to the Commission

Subject: The Commission's plan for gender-specific medical data

There are biological differences between women and men which affect how diseases behave in the body. For instance, lung cancer hits men and women differently. As many as 15% of women, compared to only 5% of men, diagnosed with lung cancer are hit by the disease without having smoked. Furthermore, women have smaller lungs and a slower metabolism for carcinogenic substances. This means that different diagnostic tools and treatments might be necessary.

In spite of these facts, medical research has a history of generalising studies performed on men to also include women. As a consequence, multiple studies show that what affects women's health is not well known. There is simply not enough reliable and gender specific data.

The obvious lack of data is a serious threat to women's health that needs to be remedied.

1. How does the Commission plan to incorporate aspects relevant to both men and women into the medical statistics of the EU?
2. What is the Commission's action plan to encourage medical research to also include gender-specific data?