

EN

E-000426/2021

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(31.3.2021)

In its reply to Written Question E-002466/2020, the Commission informed that the promotion of good mental health is an important part of the Commissions' work on health over the next five years. There is no specific reference to the need for a comprehensive EU Mental Health Strategy in this reply, nor in the Commission's reply to Written Question E-004545/2020.

Mental health problems often result from a complex interplay of factors, including social and economic ones, and this relationship is reciprocal<sup>1</sup>. The COVID-19 pandemic has put the complexity of this matter in the spotlight, but also opened up new avenues for integrated approaches. Mental health perspectives have, for instance, been shared in developing Commission initiatives with regard to ageing, disabilities, children's rights, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) equality. The mental health of essential workers employed in other sectors than health will also be addressed by the Commission's Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health that has been mandated to prepare an Opinion on "Supporting the Mental health of health workforce and other essential workers"<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission highly values good collaboration with stakeholders from the mental health community, as can be illustrated by the work carried out through the dedicated network group on the mental health impact of COVID-19 on the EU Health Policy Platform<sup>3</sup>. This was set up as a multisectoral endeavour, encouraging dialogue with and between stakeholders from different policy areas. The Commission will continue to follow closely this important issue and to offer all possible support.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2018\\_healthatglance\\_rep\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2018_healthatglance_rep_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/expert\\_panel/docs/mandate\\_workforce\\_mental-health\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/expert_panel/docs/mandate_workforce_mental-health_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>