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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.3.2021)

The Commission is concerned at the complex impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of European citizens, but does not intend, at present, to develop a strategy. In spring 2020, the Commission opted for a pragmatic approach to respond to this challenge, through engagement with health care representatives, mental health specialists, representative associations and patient groups. The priority was to identify initiatives and best practices that could be diffused and implemented in the short term.

This process includes the creation of a dedicated web space within the EU Health Policy Platform¹ to support stakeholders, which meanwhile gathers over seventy participants. Following an initial mapping exercise of promising approaches, a first webinar to share expertise and actions was organised in October 2020. A specific focus was given to mental health impact of the pandemic on the health care workforce.

The Commission will continue to encourage the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the area of mental health, and is exploring options to support the implementation of promising practices through the EU4Health Programme². It will also include this important issue in the context of its new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027, to be adopted in the second quarter of 2021.

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en