Question for written answer E-002021/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
Caterina Chinnici (S&D), David Lega (PPE), Hilde Vautmans (Renew), Ewa Kopacz (PPE),
Giuliano Pisapia (S&D), Pina Piccierno (S&D), Carlo Calenda (S&D), Massimiliano Smeriglio
(S&D), Alessandra Moretti (S&D), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Cyrus Engerer (S&D), Milan Brglez
(S&D), Evin Incir (S&D), Frances Fitzgerald (PPE), Eva Kaili (S&D), Elissavet Vozemberg-
Vrionidi (PPE), Ioan-Rareș Bogdan (PPE), Cristian-Silviu Bușoi (PPE), Chrysoula
Zacharopoulou (Renew), Ramona Strugariu (Renew), Piernicola Pedicini (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Strengthening paediatric research

Research on paediatric drugs is neglected due to low industrial interest in a limited market. Only 30-
50% of medicines in Europe are available for children of different ages and with different diseases.
The main factors behind these low percentages seem to be the lack of infrastructural support and
investments for conducting innovative and specific paediatric research activities.

In addition to these shortcomings, paediatric issues have not been adequately addressed in Horizon
Europe’s strategic plan, with the exception of paediatric cancer.

It is therefore necessary to extend the positive example of paediatric cancer to the numerous and
unmet needs connected to all the diseases (genetic, metabolic, rare, chronic, neonatological and
neurodevelopmental) that affect children and that do not have adequate therapeutic coverage, which
runs counter to the fundamental right of children to receive high-quality therapies.

Does the Commission intend to ensure:

1. that shares of the funds allocated to Horizon Europe’s ‘Cluster 1 – Health’ are effectively
   committed to projects dedicated to paediatric (basic, preclinical, translational and clinical)
   research?

2. that the European research strategy adequately guarantees the development of therapies, drugs
   and medical devices suitable for all paediatric ages, and the implementation of the principle of
   equal treatment of patients in Europe regardless of their age and pathologies?

Supporters

1 Toma M., Felisi M., Bonifazi D., Bonifazi F., Giannuzzi V., Reggiardo G., de Wildt S., Ceci A. and the TEDDY
   European Network of Excellence for Paediatric Research, ‘Paediatric Medicines in Europe: The Paediatric
   Regulation – Is It Time for Reform?’, Frontiers in Medicine, Lausanne, 2021
2 Articles 24 and 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 168 of the Treaty
   on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
3 This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Giorgos Georgiou (The Left), Brando Benifei
   (S&D)