

**Question for written answer E-003391/2021**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Raffaele Fitto (ECR)**

Subject: Recognition of fibromyalgia at EU level

Fibromyalgia is a disease characterised by widespread chronic muscular pain, associated with stiffness, which can become disabling. In those affected it can blight a free and dignified life and, in the most severe cases, lead to total unfitness for work. The syndrome affects almost 20% of EU citizens, particularly women.

In 1992 the WHO recognised fibromyalgia syndrome as a disease, including it in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) (January 1993) with the code 'M79.0: Rheumatism, unspecified'. In January 2009, the European Parliament adopted a declaration calling for the development of a strategy and the recognition of the syndrome as a disabling disease. However, this was not followed up by any initiative on the part of the Commission and the Council. It should be pointed out, moreover, that health care is a matter for which Member States are responsible.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to promote any measures at the political level to raise awareness of fibromyalgia and encourage its recognition as a disease which causes disability in the Member States?
2. Will it, within the framework of European research programmes, promote projects to exchange information and clinical data between the Member States and the European scientific community, and to improve access to diagnosis and treatment?
3. Does it not think it might be useful to open up a debate on the relationship between disabling illnesses and unfitness for work, in order to improve the instruments for the protection of workers?