

Question for written answer E-005045/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Alex Agius Saliba (S&D)

Subject: Thalidomide survivors

More than 60 years after the tragedy that engulfed Europe following the placement of the drug Thalidomide on the market, the effects on the survivors are still widespread. Responsibility for this human tragedy has only been partly shouldered and thousands of survivors around Europe are still facing many difficulties.

Despite Parliament's motion for a resolution of 12 December 2016, the progress regarding compensation for victims has been very limited. Many survivors around Europe are unable to pay for the costs of social services. This is one of the biggest concerns for Thalidomide survivors who are now in their 50s and 60s and in need of social services, since their carers, who are often their family members, are not able to continue taking care of them because of illness, old age or death.

1. What actions has the Commission taken to ensure the full implementation of Parliament's 2016 motion for a resolution on support for Thalidomide survivors?
2. When will it set up a framework protocol at European level so that all EU citizens affected by Thalidomide can receive compensation regardless of their Member State of origin?
3. When will it draw up an EU programme for assistance and support including financial and welfare provisions for Thalidomide victims and their families?