

Question for written answer E-003023/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Deirdre Clune (PPE)

Subject: The status of oral health in EU health policies

Oral health and overall health are deeply interconnected. The Commission acknowledged this link in the guidance document for the 'Healthier Together' non-communicable diseases initiative published in June 2022. Meanwhile, in May 2022, the 75th World Health Assembly adopted the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategy on Oral Health, recognising that oral conditions are major public health problems.

Recognising poor oral health as a health determinant would therefore improve the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases. There also remains an urgent need for dedicated resourcing for oral health in the WHO Regional Office for Europe. This function is key to developing an oral health action plan in Europe.

Against this backdrop:

1. How does the Commission intend to tackle oral health diseases to support the reduction in the burden of non-communicable diseases and how does the Commission plan to address oral health as part of the forthcoming joint actions under the Healthier Together initiative?
2. Will dedicated EU funds (e.g. from EU4Health or Horizon Europe's health cluster) be mobilised to support the WHO Regional Office for Europe so it can assign staff to support implementation in the region?
3. Will the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) act as a coordinating body to support Member States in the national implementation of the WHO Strategy?