

**Question for written answer E-003280/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Cristina Maestre Martín De Almagro (S&D)**

**Subject:** Current European financing for research on the diagnosis and treatment of myalgic encephalomyelitis

It is estimated that between 17 and 24 million people worldwide currently suffer from myalgic encephalomyelitis. Around 2 million of those affected are European citizens, for whom there is to date no diagnostic test verified by the European Medicines Agency. This makes the detection and treatment of this condition very difficult. It is thought that the number of patients affected could actually be much higher, precisely because of the difficulties involved in the diagnosis of this debilitating illness. In addition, there are already studies, such as the one conducted by the Spanish Society of Primary Care Physicians (SEMERGEN), which have demonstrated the connection between long COVID and myalgic encephalomyelitis<sup>1</sup>.

The high degree of disability this illness causes due to extreme fatigue, both physical and mental, prevents sufferers from participating in simple, everyday activities. With that in mind:

Could the Commission state precisely how much funding it currently dedicates to research into the diagnosis and treatment of this illness?

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<sup>1</sup> *Long COVID: is it actually a form of myalgic encephalomyelitis?* Literature Review and considerations. Spanish Society of Primary Care Physicians (SEMERGEN). January-February 2021  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8437705/#:~:text=La%20posibilidad%20de%20que%20la,que%20han%20presentado%20esta%20infecci%C3%B3n.>