

**Question for written answer E-001786/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Right to emotional support and companionship

Unwanted loneliness is the most silent of all pandemics and one that has taken firm root in today's societies. The number of people who suffer from it or end their days without anyone close, through no choice of their own, is very high.

The right to emotional support and companionship consists in the notion that every individual has the right to form emotional bonds and be treated affectionately, to experience companionship, and for this relationship, among equals, to be freely, reciprocally, directly, respectfully, and consensually affectionate.

Thanks to the work of many NGOs and civil society organisations, in some Member States such as Spain, legislative chambers have already launched initiatives pushing for the right to emotional support and companionship to be promoted at multilateral and international level in order to develop strategies against unwanted loneliness.

In light of the above:

1. In view of the problem of unwanted loneliness, is the Commission aware of this initiative or similar initiatives in the Member States?
2. Is the Commission developing any programme or activity in this regard?

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