

**Question for written answer E-002322/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Policies to prevent, research and raise awareness of diseases affecting women

Certain diseases – including both ovarian and breast cancer, along with a number of cardiovascular and gynaecological conditions – are a particular threat to women's health, and specific steps need to be taken if they are to be detected early, treated effectively and cured.

However, none of that can come to pass if sufficient funding is not granted to research projects which search for the root causes of those ailments and develop ways of treating and curing them.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among EU women: in 2020, in excess of 350 000 cases (of which an estimated 14.4 % were terminal) were diagnosed, while around 45 000 patients were diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Gynaecological diseases are another major health concern, with more than 10 % of women of reproductive age affected by endometriosis, which can prevent them from conceiving.

In view of the above:

1. With a view both to the development of new diagnostic procedures and innovative treatments and to promoting prevention practices, is the Commission considering bolstering funding for research projects into diseases that affect women?
2. As part of efforts to make women aware of the risks and symptoms associated with those diseases and of the best prevention practices, will the Commission step up its existing awareness-raising programmes?

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