

**Question for written answer E-002338/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Vitiligo: equal rights for EU citizens

Skin diseases are a serious global public health burden. Although they are rarely life threatening, they have huge physical, psychological and social consequences.

Vitiligo is one of the most invasive skin diseases, which affects almost 100 million people worldwide. While not painful, this complex disease entails the autoimmune destruction of epidermal melanocytes and has a significant impact on the personal and social life of patients, causing embarrassment, shame and depression.

On 19 April 2023, the European Medicines Agency authorised the use of Opzelura, a new medicine for treating non-segmental vitiligo. Two main studies have proved that this treatment can achieve an improvement in pigmentation of at least 75 % after six months. Nevertheless, this medicine is very expensive and it has still only been commercialised in a few Member States.

In the light of the above and taking account of its remit, can the Commission say whether:

1. It intends to engage with the Member States to recommend the recognition of vitiligo as an autoimmune disorder beyond its cosmetic implications?
2. It will take action to include vitiligo in EU research funding mechanisms, such as Horizon Europe and the Innovative Health Initiative, in order to improve the lives of vitiligo patients?
3. It will consider recommending that all Member States provide innovative treatments, such as Opzelura, free of charge or at a reduced price?

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