

**Question for written answer E-003056/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Commission communication 'A comprehensive approach to mental health' and phenylketonuria patients

The recent Commission communication on 'A comprehensive approach to mental health' recognises the crucial importance of mental health and strives to put it on an equal footing with physical health. It contains a 'catalogue' of ongoing EU actions that could support an inclusive approach, addressing the full spectrum of mental health, ranging from prevention and mental health promotion to care and cure.

It also speaks of the need to pay attention to vulnerable groups, specifically singling out people living with cancer, while overlooking people living with chronic and life-threatening diseases - including rare diseases, such as phenylketonuria (PKU). PKU is a rare inherited metabolic disorder that affects about one in every 10 000 children born in Europe. If left untreated, PKU can cause severe intellectual disability as well as neurological, mental health and behavioural problems.

1. Does the Commission agree that everyone living with a chronic or life-threatening disease – including rare diseases, such as PKU – should be considered vulnerable?
2. How does the Commission intend to guarantee that people living with a chronic or life-threatening disease are adequately considered in this comprehensive approach?

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