

**Question for written answer E-003548/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Recognition of rare diseases (fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis and multiple chemical sensitivity) at European level

Fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis and multiple chemical sensitivity are debilitating diseases that impair patients' ability to live with freedom and dignity and, in their most severe forms, make it impossible for them to work.

In 1992, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognised fibromyalgia as a disease and included it in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) under code M79.0. Myalgic encephalomyelitis has been recognised by the WHO since 1969: renamed post-viral fatigue syndrome, it was given ICD code 11-8E49 in 2019. Unlike these other two diseases, multiple chemical sensitivity is yet to be recognised.

Given the large number of patients suffering from these diseases and the compromised quality of life they lead:

1. Will the Commission promote action to raise awareness of fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis and multiple chemical sensitivity and to encourage their recognition as disabling diseases in the Member States?
2. Will it foster, as part of European research programmes, projects to exchange information and clinical data between the Member States and the European scientific community, and to improve access to diagnosis and treatment?
3. Does it consider that a debate on the relationship between disabling illnesses and unfitness for work would be worthwhile with a view to improving worker protection instruments?

Submitted: 4.12.2023