

**Question for written answer E-000635/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Malin Björk (The Left)**

Subject: Equitable access to healthcare for fibromyalgia patients

Fibromyalgia (FM) is a painful chronic disease and is considered, together with psychiatric diseases, to have the lowest quality of life. The prevalence in Europe is estimated to be about 20 million people.

Despite being defined in 1987 as a 'disease entity' by the American Medical Association (AMA), FM patients still suffer from largely insufficiently met medical needs.

Patients with FM face significant differences in treatment across Europe. The understanding of FM is low among healthcare professionals, and patients are sent around to different services, which generates immense costs. There are no national guidelines for treatment. The quality of the training of medical students varies, and there are major differences in social security rights for patients.

1. How could the Commission act to help guide national health authorities to include FM among diagnoses that guarantee specialist consultations for patients, and to help guide municipalities and specialists to apply recommended diagnostics and treatments?
2. How is the Commission planning to encourage health authorities to define FM as a valid diagnosis for sick leave and disability pension?

Submitted:27.2.2024