

**Question for oral answer O-000025/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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Subject: How to tackle the biggest cause of death in the EU? Towards an EU Cardiovascular Health Plan

Cardiovascular disease represents the biggest killer of infants under the age of one, kills almost twice as many women as every single cancer combined and, overall, is the number one cause of death in every single EU Member State.

Within the EU alone, cardiovascular diseases cost EUR 210 billion each year in direct healthcare expenses, lost productivity and informal caregiver support.

Existing initiatives such as the Beating Cancer Plan also do not adequately take cardiovascular disease into account. It is the biggest comorbidity and consequence of cancer treatment. Cancer treatment can cause cardiovascular disease, which reduces treatment options and accounts for up to 57 % of comorbidities in cancer cases. Children with cancer have an eight times greater chance of developing cardiovascular disease as adults.

As a result:

What future steps does the Commission intend to take to address cardiovascular health and reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in the EU?

How can the Commission support measures to reduce inequalities in cardiovascular health across the EU?

Will the next Gender Equality Strategy recognise the need for action on cardiovascular disease as a means of improving the well-being of all women in the EU today?

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