

**Question for written answer E-014151/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU-level action on schizophrenia

Across the world, at least 26 million people are affected by schizophrenia. This condition can affect an individual's mood, behaviour and psychosocial functioning and has huge psychosocial consequences, for patients and their families.

Therapy and medication help to change the lives of people with schizophrenia, but many patients still experience social isolation, unemployment, homelessness or imprisonment, poor quality of life, premature death and suicide, prejudice and discrimination.

Research has shown that improving quality of life for people living with schizophrenia is a realistic goal. To reach this goal, we need:

- an integrated team approach to ensure timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment, including psychotherapy, psychoeducation, self-help and medication
- collaboration with those affected by the condition, their families and other sources of support
- adequate funding
- multi-stakeholder engagement, i.e. policy makers at every level, clinicians and public agencies.

Given the personal and societal impact of schizophrenia:

1. Can the Commission provide information on how schizophrenia is currently being addressed by EU-level health initiatives e.g. the Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020 and the joint actions on chronic disease and on mental health and well-being?
2. How could actions to address this condition form part of the EU social agenda, (e.g. initiatives on social inclusion, health in the work place and the Social Innovation agenda)?
3. Does Horizon 2020 provide possibilities for specific research on the causes and impact of schizophrenia, and ways of managing patient aid (e.g. treatment, inclusion, integration, community care)?