

**Question for written answer E-000589/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Gianna Gancia**

Subject: The need to implement the European mental health strategy and combat depression

The World Health Organisation estimates that depression will become the main cause of disease by 2030.

In Europe, 40 million people suffer from this disorder – one in five of whom decides to commit suicide as a result.

The economic impact of depression is estimated to be over EUR 92 billion per year in the European economic area alone and this disease is the primary cause of low productivity in Europe.

In view of the above, can the Commission – and in particular the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Ms Kyriakides – explain how, and within what time frame, it intends to develop a European mental health strategy which should include measures to combat depression, and whether it will then convert this strategy into a directive?