

**Question for written answer E-004765/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Burden of structural heart disease on EU healthcare systems

Age-related heart conditions such as structural heart disease (SHD) present a growing challenge to healthy ageing in the EU.

While we're experiencing a dramatic ageing of our society, our cultural views of ageing have not kept up with this shift in demographic. Too often we dismiss symptoms of functional decline and treatable conditions as a 'natural' part of ageing. With the increasing prevalence of age-related diseases, SHDs are expected to affect over 23 million people in the EU by 2050. This will threaten the sustainability of healthcare systems and will increase healthcare inequalities.

A cultural shift and an EU-coordinated policy are needed to include the elderly population as a crucial and active part of our society. However, the Directorate General for Education and Culture's (DG EAC) 74-page strategic plan for 2014-2020 only mentions ageing once.

1. How will the Commission tackle this problem and will it propose clear steps?
2. Why does the DG EAC strategic plan for 2014-2020 fail to sufficiently address ageing and why has it not campaigned for everyone in the EU to pay closer attention to symptoms of age-related diseases such as SHDs?
3. What is the Commission's stance on the Member States taking joint action to address this issue?