

**CALL TO THE COVID COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY EUROPEAN
CITIZENS WITH LONG COVID
MARCH 9th 2023 WORKSHOP**

Dear European Parliamentarians,

I am a citizen of the European Union. I have been living with long Covid since xxxxxxx. I am one of 2 million adults in France (per data from Santé Publique France [French public health agency], July 2022 – no statistics are available for children), and 17 million people in Europe (per World Health Organization reporting as of September 2022).

This illness has been recognized and clearly defined both at the international level by the WHO and in France by the HAS [the French Medical Authority for Health].

There is abundant scientific literature at the national and the international level which describes the causes and progression of this illness.

Long Covid has already had a substantial impact on the economy (> 1% of US GDP - per Brookings), and this impact will grow.

There is no coherent, committed long Covid public health policy in France, nor is there administrative, professional, or financial support for those of us who have it. It is a daily battle to find medical practitioners who have some understanding of long Covid. On top of this, the possibility of losing one's job is a real concern.

Every day I am faced with professional insecurity, social precarity and medical vulnerability, because I suffer from long Covid in a European country that does not take this disabling but invisible disease seriously. Other European countries have put appropriate healthcare systems in place and dedicated significant financial resources to long Covid (for example, the research funding provided by Germany). This is not the case in France.

I beg you to consider this request from an EU citizen and long Covid sufferer to put in place **a mandatory European-wide policy for the prevention and treatment of long Covid, for adults and for children. This policy should include:**

- creation of coordinated multidisciplinary care programs, based on medico-social principles,
- support for scientific research (of pathophysiological causes, as well as treatment),
- taking patients' lived experience and what they have to say into account,
- allowing all Europeans who have been struck with this malady to benefit from the same protective framework.

After all these difficult months, even years, these hopes may become reality today, March 9. You can make it happen.

Some of us have already been ill for three years. It is time for action.

We are counting on you.

Let's work together to ensure appropriate, effective care for people suffering from long Covid, both adults and children. Let's make March 9 European Long Covid Day!

Respectfully,

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