



EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

I would like to thank you for your mail and joint letter of February 2025, in which you express your concerns on the funding for research on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

The Commission recognises the need for solutions to efficiently tackle ME/CFS. Under Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, research funding is allocated through competitive calls, where the evaluation of proposals is carried out by independent experts.

Dedicated call topics were already opened in the Cluster 1 'Health' Work Programme 2023-2024 offering researchers in the ME/CFS area an opportunity to apply for research funding. These topics included for example: '[Tackling high burden for patients, under-researched medical conditions](#)' and '[Relationship between infections and non-communicable diseases](#)'. Linked to the former topic, the Commission also commissioned a [scoping study](#) where ME/CFS was identified as one of the 12 main groups of disorders being a high burden for patients and under-researched.

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Looking forward, the final version of Cluster 1 'Health' Work Programme 2025, which was recently pre-published and is awaiting formal adoption by mid-May, has a similar dedicated call topic that will open soon (HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-DISEASE-07: Tackling high-burden for patients and under-researched medical conditions). The difference being that this call topic also specifically covers ME/CFS, among a few other defined medical conditions. The call topic will open on 22 May and the proposal submission deadline will be on 16 September (2025). A budget of EUR 30 million has been reserved for this call topic.

The Commission has also been preparing a European partnership for Brain Health, which should cater to the needs of brain researchers more broadly, including those working in the area of ME/CFS. Additionally, it should cover the needs of the wider ecosystem such as end-users (including patients). An ongoing EU-supported coordination action ([CSA BrainHealth](#)) is helping to pave the way to this partnership, which is expected to start in the 1st quarter of 2026. A dedicated call topic for this partnership is foreseen in the Cluster 1 'Health' Work Programme 2025 (HORIZON-HLTH-2025-02-DISEASE-01: European Partnership for Brain Health).

Recognising the debilitating impact of this disease on European patients, their carers, and their communities, Horizon Europe will continue to offer opportunities for research funding in the ME/CFS area. Call topics are generally broad enough to accommodate for this research, and they are published on the [EU Funding & Tenders portal](#).

Yours sincerely,
Ekaterina Zaharieva

