

**Question for written answer E-002619/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Treatment and healthcare services for people affected by geographic atrophy

Geographic atrophy (GA), an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration that causes the death of photoreceptor cells, is a severe condition that leads to significant vision loss and blindness, severely impacting patients' and caregivers' physical and emotional well-being, diminishing their quality of life, affecting healthcare spending and causing productivity loss.

1. Given the significant impact of GA, with approximately 5 million people affected worldwide, including approximately 730 000 in Germany, France and Italy alone, what measures is the Commission taking to promote early diagnosis and screening and ensure timely access to innovative treatments for GA patients?
2. How could the Commission help to ensure that patients in the Member States have access to adequate healthcare services and support systems to enable them to manage the impact of GA on their day-to-day lives?
3. Considering that there are approved treatments (in e.g. the United States) that delay blindness resulting from GA, what steps are being taken to facilitate access to innovative therapies in the EU?

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