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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Draft programme

Covid-19: treatment of people dealing with long-term effects of the virus

Public hearing (Hybrid meeting in Strasbourg and on the KUDO platform)

Thursday, 9 September, from 2 pm to 3 pm

“Long Covid” is a condition characterised by symptoms that can last for months after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection and affects about 10-20% of those infected by the virus. Symptoms include chronic fatigue, breathlessness, muscle pain and headaches. Many sufferers have been left unable to perform their everyday activities.

In January 2021, the Assembly adopted Resolution 2373 (2021) on “Discrimination against persons dealing with chronic and long-term illnesses”. As there are likely many patients suffering in silence, unsure that their symptoms are connected to Covid-19, the introduction of unified treatment guidelines and the use of screening programmes could give a better understanding of how many people are affected by the condition and the kind of support they would need, and how this support can best be provided.

This hearing will seek to understand what it is like experiencing “long Covid”, and examine the underlying mechanisms of the condition, including what causes it, how it can be detected, why some people are more at risk than others, what symptoms are typical and for how long they last, and what treatments may help. Furthermore, the hearing will explore what type of discrimination “long Covid” patients suffer and how they can be protected from discrimination.

2 pm	<i>Welcome and opening remarks by:</i> Ms Martine Wonner , former rapporteur on “Discrimination against persons dealing with chronic and long-term illnesses” (France, ALDE)
2.05 pm	<i>Presentations, questions and answers:</i> Ms Laurence Trastour-Isnart , member of the Committee (France, EPP/CD) Mr Risto O. Roine , Professor in Neurology at Turku University Hospital and Chair of the Board, The Finnish Brain Council (leading the Finnish Long Covid expert group monitoring and analysing the information and experience gathered both nationally and internationally about the long-term effects of Covid-19) Mr Daniel Altmann , Professor of Immunology, leading the research team on Long Covid, Imperial College London
2.55 pm	<i>Conclusions by:</i> Mr Luis Leite Ramos , Chairperson of the Committee (Portugal, EPP/CD)



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