

EN

E-001128/2021

Answer given by Mrs Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.5.2021)

The Commission would like to thank the Honourable Member for the interest in the field of bone marrow transplantation and in the difficulties to find compatible donors for patients with serious diseases like myelofibrosis.

Public health is an area where the Union supports, complements or supplements the actions of the Member States (Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU<sup>1</sup>)). The European Union's competence in the field of public health is limited under Article 168 TFEU and, as regards tissues and cells covers setting standards for quality and safety (Article 168(4)(a) TFEU)<sup>2</sup>.

That being said, the Commission would like to point the Honourable Member to the work of the World Marrow Donor Association<sup>3</sup> (WMDA), which combines different national and local databases of candidate donors. WMDA allows medical professionals in haemato-oncology to search for a matching donor for their patients amongst close to 40 million candidate donors. The Commission believes that such global initiatives by and for healthcare professionals are the right level and approach to help patients and doctors at best, and has therefore supported WMDA with a Public Health Programme grant to further strengthen its important work in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12008E168>

<sup>3</sup> <https://wmda.info/>