



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Director-General

Brussels,
rtd.d.1.dir(2022)1320762

Dear Ms Kuipers,

I would like to thank you for your email of 2 February 2022, in which you put forward your concerns regarding the funding of the BC007 drug developed by Berlin Cures for long COVID-19 patients and for patients with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

Since the start of the pandemic, the Commission has coordinated a common European response to the coronavirus outbreak. The Commission adopted on 6 May 2021 the EU strategy on COVID-19 therapeutics¹ to ensure a reinforced and strategic approach to the development, manufacturing and procurement of safe and effective therapeutics, and to speed up recovery times and limit the need for hospitalisation. Joint EU efforts on therapeutics also pay particular attention to research on, and the treatment of, 'long COVID'.

The European Commission is for instance supporting research into long COVID through the ORCHESTRA project², which is looking into the long-term consequences of COVID-19 infection. In July 2021³, the Commission announced further funding under the EU's new research framework programme, Horizon Europe⁴, for projects researching long-COVID and new treatments options for COVID-19 in general.

Likewise, the European Commission is supporting research into ME/CFS^{5,6,7,8}. It is likely that research into long COVID stands to benefit our understanding of ME/CFS, while the other way round is also true.

As you know, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is providing funding⁹ for research into the long-term consequences of COVID-19, including

¹ [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0355R\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

² <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101016167>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3803

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁵ www.euromene.eu

⁶ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/867223>

⁷ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/848228>

⁸ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/768728>

the clinical study of the effects of the BC007 drug¹⁰. Berlin Cures are currently preparing to demonstrate the efficacy of BC007 in a large number of patients with long COVID¹¹.

EU support to research is provided via the EU framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe. EU research funding is granted on the basis of competitive calls for proposals, following an independent peer-review evaluation. It is expected that Horizon Europe will provide further opportunities for funding of research on long COVID and ME/CFS.

I would therefore invite Berlin Cures to check the 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal¹² for funding opportunities from the European Commission for COVID-19 research.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jean-Eric Paquet

⁹ <https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/pressemitteilungen/de/2021/09/230921-long-covid.html>

¹⁰ https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/downloads/_pressestelle/files/pdf-PM/192-faktenblatt.pdf;jsessionid=EDD2AFC5EACB8B7811CA0DAE6860640A.live382?_blob=publicationFile&v=1

¹¹ <https://www.berlincures.de/en/bc-007-pipeline>

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>