

**Question for written answer E-001553/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Angelika Niebler (PPE)**

**Subject:** Investment cost funding in the hospital sector

The German hospital sector has long been receiving substantial public funding to promote investment. This aid is distorting competition in the outpatient sector to the detriment of independent private doctors. This public funding of investment costs is already the subject of EU State aid concerns. On 15 May 2024, the German Federal Government approved a draft law for a hospital reform that would exacerbate the existing competitive disadvantage of independent private doctors vis-à-vis hospitals. Notably, it would afford hospitals new possibilities with regard to performing outpatient medical services and establish a new transformation fund offering generous support to the outpatient sector in particular.

1. It is our understanding that the current system has not yet been approved by the Commission and therefore constitutes non-notified aid. Is the Commission in contact with the German authorities with regard to this matter?
2. Have the German authorities already notified the Commission of the planned reform or discussed it in pre-notification talks with the Commission?
3. For independent private doctors, it is essential that all market players have a fair, just and level playing field. There have therefore already been reports of complaints filed with the Commission against the current system and the planned reform. Will the Commission investigate this issue in order to create a level playing field for all?

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