

**Question for written answer E-004379/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Serious deficiencies in access to specialised healthcare in El Bierzo, Spain

In many EU regions that are suffering from depopulation, the lack of sustained public investment and the privatisation of health services are resulting in the breach of Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In Spain, the state of affairs at El Bierzo Hospital in the Autonomous Community of Castile and Leon – serving over 125 000 people – is a particularly worrying example.

The OncoBierzo association, established by patients and care givers in the oncology unit, has been denouncing – for months – the lack of specialists, the discontinuation of treatments and the progressive deterioration of this public hospital's services, particularly in its oncology department.

The association's work highlights a problem shared by many rural areas in Europe that are seeing territorial inequalities worsen, compromising social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

In light of the objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and of territorial cohesion policies:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the Cancer Plan is implemented in rural and peripheral regions?
2. What action will it take to prevent economic and territorial discrimination in access to essential health services?
3. Does it intend to push forward specific funding and incentives to strengthen public health services, particularly cancer care?

Submitted: 5.11.2025