

Question for written answer E-004911/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Challenges related to cross-border patient mobility

More than 15 years after it was adopted, Directive 2011/24/EU on cross-border patient mobility has still not been applied in a consistent and even manner throughout the Union.

The Italian Court of Auditors ruling of 7 December 2020 had already highlighted that citizens are restricted both in a legal and in a practical sense from fully accessing healthcare and planned treatment in another Member State. Specifically, social security institutions and health authorities continue to implement internal policies which make the procedures for issuing prior authorisation and reimbursing advance expenses excessively complex and burdensome for users, a state of affairs that has dissuaded a number of citizens from considering treatment abroad.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission check how Directive 2011/24/EU has been implemented in practice in the Member States and then announce whether any issues at the national level have been identified?
2. What steps will the Commission take to simplify and automate these authorisation and reimbursement procedures – burdens which, because they are mostly shouldered by end-users, have prompted some to give up on the idea of getting treatment abroad?

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