

**Question for written answer E-001034/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Nursing shortages

In a recent technical brief, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe warned that insufficient and inadequately skilled nursing staff are jeopardising patient safety and accelerating burnout across European healthcare systems. According to the WHO Regional Office for Europe, staff shortages, rising care demands and increasing mental health strain are creating a ‘ticking timebomb’, with a projected shortfall of nearly one million healthcare professionals in Europe by 2030.

Nurses represent 56 % of the health workforce, yet inadequate nurse-to-patient ratios and poor workforce planning are heightening clinical risks and driving professionals out of the sector. The WHO calls for nursing care to be treated as safety-critical, alongside improved staffing standards, better management of care complexity and greater use of digital tools to reduce administrative burdens.

Given that health workforce resilience is essential to the functioning of national health systems and to EU health security more broadly, what actions does the Commission intend to take, within its competences, to support Member States in addressing nursing shortages, promoting safe staffing standards and improving retention and working conditions across the EU?

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