

Question for written answer E-003532/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Revision of EU legislation on healthcare abroad

Fifteen years on from the entry into force of the directive regulating access to cross-border healthcare in the EU, the time has come to take stock and act for the benefit of the citizens. As outlined in a recent study carried out by the European Parliamentary Research Service, European patients still face bureaucratic and financial obstacles when seeking treatment in another Member State.

This is primarily due to patients not being well-informed about their rights and to prior authorisation and cost reimbursement procedures being overly complex.

This calls for improved coordination of national public health systems and their interoperability, including through the European Health Data Space (EHDS). This space should be up and running in the next five years, in accordance with the EHDS Regulation, which came into force last year.

1. We are currently in a transition period and in March next year the Commission needs to present a set of detailed implementing rules. At what stage is the preparation of these rules?
2. More broadly, is the Commission considering a revision of the directive to fully ensure equitable access to healthcare and the free movement of health services and medicines?

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