

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000209/25
to the Commission
Aldo Patriciello (PFE)
(20 January 2025)**

Subject: Details on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Italy has a key role to play in implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Given the significance of the plan for the health of Italians and the harmonisation of health policies in Europe, ensuring transparency and the efficient use of resources is essential. In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission explain how funds from the EU plan have been integrated with Italy's existing funding programmes, such as the national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP), in order to avoid overlap and optimise impact?
2. Can it give an overview of its cooperation with the Italian authorities to monitor and enhance the national health system's capacity to reduce territorial disparities and ensure equal access to cancer treatments?

Submitted: 20.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(9 April 2025)**

The health mission of Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan includes EUR 524 million aimed at strengthening biomedical research within the National Health Service ⁽¹⁾, including funding research on rare cancers.

The EU4Health Programme ⁽²⁾ supports Member States with the implementation of the EU Cancer Plan, including through direct grants to Member States for specific actions.

The structure of the projects, allocation of tasks, and funding is under the remit of the participating Member State authorities. Consequently, the Commission is not in a position to assess how EU funding is aligned with existing national funding programmes.

The European Cancer Inequalities Registry ⁽³⁾ highlights inequalities in cancer prevention and care across EU countries. It helps Member States identify areas for action at national and regional level. Member State representatives, including from Italy, are regularly consulted on the initiative.

As part of the European Semester ⁽⁴⁾ the Commission evaluates the Italian health system performance and engages with Italian authorities on priority areas for improvement.

Some of the investments in Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan aim to reduce territorial disparities by creating a new model for the Territorial healthcare assistance network, including the setup of Community Health Houses, Community Hospitals and Territorial Coordination Centres.

The national programme 'Health Equity' (EUR 375 million in EU funding) aims to strengthen healthcare services in less developed regions and make the access to health services more equitable.

It focuses on ensuring access to oncological screening programmes by identifying populations in socioeconomic vulnerability, living in remote or disadvantaged areas.

⁽¹⁾ Investment M6C2 number 2.1 'Strengthening and enhancement of the NHS biomedical research'.

⁽²⁾ EU4Health — European Commission https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/eu4health_en

⁽³⁾ European Cancer Inequalities Registry (ECIR) <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

⁽⁴⁾ European Semester documents for Italy https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/european-semester/european-semester-your-country/european-semester-documents-italy_en