

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001456/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(9 April 2025)

Subject: Telemedicine

1. What EU legislation regulates the provision of telemedicine and the cross-border postal delivery of medical treatment, including abortion pills, in the EU?
2. Can the Commission clarify how EU legislation on telemedicine and postal services operates alongside national legislation in this area, and can it identify possible barriers to cross-border access for women in different Member States?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)

1. The provision of telemedicine in cross border healthcare is regulated by several pieces of EU legislation. These include Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare ⁽¹⁾ and other legislative acts in the field of e-commerce, recognition of qualifications, medicinal products and medical devices. The Commission has published an 'overview on the applicability of the existing EU legal framework to telemedicine services in 2012' ⁽²⁾. No specific EU legislation is available on cross-border postal delivery of health treatments. Specific rules and restrictions apply depending on the countries involved, the type of medication, and whether a valid prescription is in place.

Cross-border postal delivery of medical treatment is in principle subject to Directive 2011/24/EU and Commission Implementing Directive 2012/52/EU on measures to facilitate the recognition of medical prescriptions issued in another Member State ⁽³⁾. However, reimbursement of medicinal products is possible if they are covered by the national health system of the home country.

2. The Commission has launched a study to support the review of the 2012 document on the applicability of the existing EU legal framework to telemedicine services. The study aims to gather a better understanding of relevant legislation related to telemedicine at EU and Member State level and is expected to also identify possible barriers to telemedicine services.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52012SC0414>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir_impl/2012/52/oj/eng.