(English version)

Question for written answer E-002870/25
to the Commission
Valentina Palmisano (The Left)
(14 July 2025)

Subject: Use of NRRP funds for integrated home care services and healthcare professional shortages in Italy

Italy will, under mission 6 of its national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP), invest EUR 2 billion of Next Generation EU funds to increase the share of the population over 65 in integrated home care to 10%.

Italy is now claiming that it has achieved this objective, even though the country continues to be beset by systemic shortages of nursing staff and physiotherapists. In addition, there is no evidence that Italy's policies have increased the number of available healthcare professionals in the country between 2023 and 2025.

Given its role in monitoring the implementation of NRRPs, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of any discrepancies between the actual number of new patients admitted to integrated home care services and Italy's reporting criteria?

2. Has Italy documented whether the aforementioned increase is the result of new staff being recruited or of the reorganisation of existing resources and non-accredited entities?

3. Does the Commission believe that the measures taken by Italy to overcome its shortage of healthcare professionals are sufficient to ensure the medium-to-long-term sustainability of the EU's investment

Submitted: 14.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2025)

The quantitative target of the recovery and resilience plan (RRP) measure 'Home as first place of care and telemedicine', related to the number of patients in home care, is due in the ninth Recovery and Resilience Facility payment request, indicatively scheduled for end-2025. In the context of its assessment, the Commission will verify the correctness of reported patient numbers.

The RRP measure 'Home as the first place of care and telemedicine' provides the financial resources necessary to cover expenses for additional home care services envisaged under the measure.

It is up to the regions to determine whether to use existing personnel, hire new one or contract out services from the private sector.

When submitting its RRP, Italy provided information on its ability to provide the additional financial and human resources to manage the target of 10% of old-age population in home care in the medium- to long-term.

Italy presented plans for training new nurses and new general practitioners (the latter under another RRP measure) in sufficient number to cater for the needs of the reorganised territorial healthcare.

According to the information provided by the Italian authorities, new financial resources would flow from both additional funding and savings deriving from more efficient use of resources following the reorganisation of territorial healthcare.