

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003357/25
to the Commission**

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(2 September 2025)

Subject: Health tourism and EU-UK trade in puberty blockers for minors

According to recent investigations by journalists, UK-based private clinics are promoting subscriptions costing thousands of pounds sterling to enable families with children to obtain puberty-blocking medication in the EU, given the ban on them in the UK after scientific studies revealed their serious risks and side-effects.

British children get the medication in the EU and travel to get their doses administered by complaisant doctors, in particular in Ireland and Spain. The UK Government has described this 'health tourism' as irresponsible and dangerous.

This situation exposes teenagers and even children to harmful substances, with serious consequences for their physical and psychological development. The lack of EU action makes it possible to circumvent national bans and paves the way for a cross-border medicine trade that affects the most vulnerable: minors.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this practice, and in particular, is it aware of the case of Anne Health, founded by Susie Green, and of the health tourism phenomenon that allows these medicines to be administered to minors?
2. What action will it take to combat the circumvention of national bans through health tourism practices?
3. How does it intend to ensure that the distribution and administration of such medicines in Europe is subject to strict monitoring by the European Medicines Agency and the EudraVigilance system, in order to protect children?

Submitted: 2.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(12 November 2025)

1. The Commission is not aware of this practice and has no information on its occurrence in EU Member States. Member States' laws may regulate recognition of medical prescriptions from outside the EU based on bilateral agreements.
2. The Commission must respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care in accordance with Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union⁽¹⁾. Directive 2011/24/EU⁽²⁾ on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare provides rules under which a patient may travel to another Member State to receive medical care and get reimbursed under certain conditions⁽³⁾. This also includes the recognition of medical prescriptions. However, this directive only applies to the EU/ European Economic Area (EEA) countries.
3. The European Medicines Agency plays a central role in monitoring the safety of all authorised medicines through the EU pharmacovigilance system, which includes EudraVigilance. However, it is important to note that the distribution and administration of medicines fall primarily under the responsibility of EU Member States, as they relate to the organisation and management of national healthcare systems. They have strict rules in place to ensure that the access to puberty blocking medicines is appropriately controlled. These include clinical guidelines and national rules requiring in some instances the approval of more than one physician and a psychological assessment before prescribing. If these national rules are circumvented, this should be reported to the relevant national authorities or professional organisations where the physicians have prescribed them.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_168/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/2014-01-01/eng>.

⁽³⁾ Article 7(1) of Directive 2011/24/EU includes as a general principle for the reimbursement of costs that the healthcare in question is among the benefits to which the insured person is entitled in the Member State of affiliation.