

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003949/25
to the Commission
Ton Diepeveen (PfE)
(8 October 2025)

Subject: Disqualified doctors continuing to practise the same profession in another EU Member State

More and more European healthcare providers are practising their profession in another EU Member State. A study conducted in 45 countries shows that healthcare professionals who have lost their licence in one Member State after serious incidents, such as gross medical negligence or sexual abuse, can often find work in another Member State without a care in the world ⁽¹⁾.

The study also shows that the IMI (European warning system) is inadequate. Licence withdrawals are often not reported, or the IMI is not consulted when a healthcare professional establishes themselves in another Member State. This criticism is in line with the findings of the European Court of Auditors ⁽²⁾.

The Commission wants to provide guidelines and promote the exchange of good practices with regard to following up on alerts. It has also stated that infringement proceedings have been initiated against Greece and that new infringement proceedings are not to be ruled out.

1. What is the status of the new guidelines and the exchange of good practices since the adoption of the European Court of Auditors' report?
2. Against which other Member States is the Commission currently considering initiating infringement proceedings?
3. What will the Commission do to improve both the input of data into the IMI and consultation thereof, in order to protect European patients and the integrity of European medical institutions?

Submitted: 8.10.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(19 December 2025)

The Commission is aware of the investigation into cases of doctors who, despite losing a licence in one country, continue to practice their profession in another Member State.

While the Commission is committed to addressing the matters within its remit, it notes that the competent authorities of Member States remain responsible for identifying the cases on their territory where doctors are unfit to pursue their profession and to apply relevant measures.

Alerts received through the internal market Information system (IMI) may constitute an additional source of information. They may complement, but not replace, the checks that healthcare authorities and competent institutions of the competent Member States apply before granting license or hiring a doctor.

When preparing new guidelines and facilitating exchanges of good practices in the context of the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors, the Commission aims to address all aspects of handling alerts in IMI and remind about Member States' obligations.

Following a workshop on the legal and practical matters related to the alerts with the Member State experts earlier this year, the Commission prepared a draft Questions and Answers guidance document. It was presented and discussed with the Member States experts, and it will be finalised by the end of 2025, following input from the training sessions conducted in December 2025.

In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors the application of the relevant legal provisions by the Member States and support them through compliance promotion activities such as trainings and ongoing assistance. When necessary, the Commission may decide to take appropriate action.

¹ <https://www.occrp.org/en/project/bad-practice/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-bad-practice-investigation>
² Special Report 10/2024, The recognition of professional qualifications in the EU