

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004243/25
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(29 October 2025)**

Subject: Accessibility of the European health insurance card for persons with visual impairments

Decision No S2 of 12 June 2009 establishes the technical specifications of the European Health Insurance Card ⁽¹⁾. However, this card is not adapted for persons with visual impairments or blindness, as it lacks tactile or Braille features that would allow for its identification and autonomous use.

Taking into account the principles of universal accessibility and non-discrimination set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the European Union, as well as the provisions of Article 26 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

Does the Commission plan to review or update the technical specifications of the European Health Insurance Card to include Braille markings or other features that would facilitate its use by persons with visual impairments?

Submitted: 29.10.2025

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

The Commission's Work Programme for 2026 announces a Fair Labour Mobility Package which includes an initiative for the European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS) ⁽¹⁾. A digitalised European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is one of the objectives of the ESSPASS initiative.

In the context of relevant preparatory work, the Commission is currently examining the outcome of the ESSPASS Pilot projects. One approach considers the use of the European Digital Identity Wallet for citizens to store and share verifiable digital documents ⁽²⁾.

Such digital identity wallets are accessible for use by persons with disabilities, including the visually impaired, in accordance with Directive 2019/882 on accessibility requirements for goods and services ⁽³⁾. A second piloted approach considers a QR-code based format, targeting citizens who may have difficulties using a digital wallet.

When evaluating the different policy options, the Commission will take due account of the need for features to facilitate use of the EHIC by persons with visual impairments.

¹ Decision No S2 of 12 June 2009 concerning the technical specifications of the European Health Insurance Card (OJ C 106, 24.4.2010, p. 26).

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2026-commission-work-programme-and-annexes_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1183&qid=1763129898378>.

⁽³⁾ See Article 5a(21) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1183, referring to <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019L0882&qid=1763124884642>.