

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004911/25
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (Pfe), Aldo Patriciello (Pfe)
(11 December 2025)**

Subject: Challenges related to cross-border patient mobility

More than 15 years after it was adopted, Directive 2011/24/EU on cross-border patient mobility has still not been applied in a consistent and even manner throughout the Union.

The Italian Court of Auditors ruling of 7 December 2020 had already highlighted that citizens are restricted both in a legal and in a practical sense from fully accessing healthcare and planned treatment in another Member State. Specifically, social security institutions and health authorities continue to implement internal policies which make the procedures for issuing prior authorisation and reimbursing advance expenses excessively complex and burdensome for users, a state of affairs that has dissuaded a number of citizens from considering treatment abroad.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission check how Directive 2011/24/EU has been implemented in practice in the Member States and then announce whether any issues at the national level have been identified?
2. What steps will the Commission take to simplify and automate these authorisation and reimbursement procedures — burdens which, because they are mostly shouldered by end-users, have prompted some to give up on the idea of getting treatment abroad?

Submitted: 11.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2026)**

Article 20 of Directive 2011/24/EU ⁽¹⁾ mandates the Commission to regularly report on the directive's operation and its effects in Member States. The most recent report on the implementation of the directive was published in May 2022 ⁽²⁾, accompanied by an action plan to address the key shortcomings identified, which is currently being implemented by the Commission and Member States. The next report on the operation of the directive is expected to be published in 2027 and will provide an up-to-date overview of the implementation of the directive.

The Commission will continue to conduct compliance checks on national legislation and identify any inconsistencies at the national level. Additionally, the implementation of the European Health Data Space Regulation ⁽³⁾ aims to support cross-border healthcare by providing patient information in electronic format.

The Commission has also been working on an awareness campaign on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. Between 2024 and 2025, twelve workshops were held at national and regional levels ⁽⁴⁾. The campaign is expected to conclude with a High-Level Conference in Brussels on 26 March 2026.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare; OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, pp. 45-65.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0210&qid=1767625358975>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/327 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2025 on the European Health Data Space and amending Directive 2011/24/EU and Regulation (EU) 2024/2847; OJ L, 2025/327, 5.3.2025.

⁽⁴⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/cross-border-healthcare/national-workshops_en.