

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000428/26
to the Commission**

**Stine Bosse (Renew), Vlad Vasile-Voiculescu (Renew), Rihards Kols (ECR), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová (Renew), Lukas Sieper (NI), Lucia Yar (Renew), Ondřej Dostál (NI), Per Clausen (The Left), Petras Auštrevičius (Renew), Hilde Vautmans (Renew), Billy Kelleher (Renew), Tiemo Wölken (S&D), Maria Grapini (S&D), Dan Barna (Renew), Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE), Adam Jarubas (PPE), Anna-Maja Henriksson (Renew), Irena Joveva (Renew), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Romana Jerković (S&D), Malika Sorel (NI), Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE),
Christophe Clergeau (S&D), Jana Nagyová (Pfe)**

(3 February 2026)

Subject: Ensuring patient safety for all Europeans: the need to establish a warning system for disqualified medical professionals

Recent investigative findings highlight significant loopholes in the European internal market. Medical professionals who have had their licences revoked or who have been sanctioned for serious malpractice in one EU Member State are frequently able to relocate and continue practising in another. This lack of coordination is a threat to patient safety across Europe.

1. Does the Commission consider the current voluntary and fragmented notification systems sufficient to ensure patient safety, or does it agree that a mandatory EU-level joint warning system is required to prevent sanctioned doctors from practising?
2. Will the Commission commit to assessing whether the current legal framework, including the Professional Qualifications Directive, strikes the right balance between the free movement of professionals and the need to protect citizens from doctors deemed unfit for duty?
3. Will the Commission launch a dedicated initiative to strengthen the internal market Information System alert mechanism, ensuring that any disciplinary action or loss of licence is automatically and instantaneously shared with all relevant health authorities in the EU, and what assessment has it made of the potential risks to life, as well as the long-term economic burden on healthcare systems caused by the continued practice of medical professionals who have already been disqualified for malpractice in other jurisdictions?

Submitted: 3.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(27 March 2026)**

The Alert Mechanism set out in Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽¹⁾ concerns professionals who are prohibited or restricted from pursuing professional activities in a Member State.

The directive lists the professions covered by alerts, including doctors and requires Member States to send alerts through the internal market Information (IMI) system.

Therefore, it serves as a single mandatory EU-level mutual warning system, ensuring that all competent authorities registered in IMI can instantly receive alerts.

In line with the division of competencies in this area between the EU and the Member States, it is for the host Member States to decide how to follow up on alerts within their legal and operational frameworks.

The Implementation Report adopted on 20 February 2026 ⁽²⁾ concludes that the EU legal framework facilitates cross-border mobility, while safeguarding general interest objectives such as service quality and public safety.

The report also indicates that the recognition processes could be further improved, particularly through digitalisation and it informs the upcoming skills portability initiative ⁽³⁾.

The Commission is regularly monitoring the Alert Mechanism. New guidelines and training on its features and use was provided to over 500 competent authorities in December 2025.

Additional IT developments of the Alert Mechanism are planned to be deployed through March and April 2026. The Commission has also organised discussions with Member States' experts to facilitate exchange of best practices.

⁽¹⁾ Professional Qualifications Directive, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02005L0036-20251029>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2026%3A86%3AFIN&qid=1771867093407>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15894-Skills-portability-action-2-facilitating-modernising-and-expanding-recognition-processes-for-regulated-professions_en.

Without prejudice to the competences of the Member States in the areas of healthcare and education ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the system and consider further improvements.

⁽⁴⁾ The definition of health policy, the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care as well as the organisation of education systems, are the responsibilities of Member States.