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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.4.2026)

Pursuant to Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, EU action shall 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. It is therefore for Member States to regulate the right of healthcare providers to object to providing certain healthcare services on ethical grounds.

As announced in the recently adopted Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, in full respect of the Treaties, and in order to protect women's health by supporting and complementing Member States' health action regarding women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Commission envisages to carry out a mapping of practices and international frameworks in this area. It also plans to develop a framework and methodology for systemic data collection to improve the evidence base on sexual and reproductive health and rights¹.

¹ Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 https://commission.europa.eu/document/1f5fa936-9fba-4435-93f5-32fa220bac82_en.