

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001077/26
to the Commission
Sandra Gómez López (S&D), Leire Pajín (S&D)
(16 March 2026)**

Subject: Delays in use of intraoperative radiation therapy equipment financed under the Recovery and Resilience Facility in Spain

Under Spain's recovery and resilience plan, financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the health authorities of the Autonomous Community of Valencia purchased three mobile electron accelerators for intraoperative radiation therapy for public hospitals in Castellón, Valencia and Elche.

This technology allows doctors to treat breast cancer patients with radiation therapy during surgery and aims to improve access to innovative cancer treatments. According to recent information, however, some of this equipment was not actually used until several years after it was purchased.

These investments are supposed to improve access to healthcare and the fight against cancer in the European Union. In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of delays in the use of RRF-funded healthcare equipment in the Member States?
2. What mechanisms does it use to check whether this equipment is actually being used and helping to improve timely access to treatment?
3. Does it believe that long delays could affect the objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, notably equal access to treatment?

Submitted: 16.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(22 June 2026)**

The Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan includes an investment (C18.I1) related to high-tech equipment in national health service. Its target 279 requires the installation of at least 750 equipment devices throughout the country. The Commission positively assessed the target in July 2025 as part of the fifth payment request ⁽¹⁾.

The evidence provided by the Spanish authorities at the time of that assessment demonstrated that all elements of the relevant target had been fulfilled, with 862 equipment devices being installed throughout the country.

The Commission's assessment was based on primary evidence, verified through a sample, demonstrating that the equipment devices had been installed, and that the installations included the types of equipment established within the scope of the measure.

Beyond the target just described, Member States are primarily responsible for the organisation and delivery of health services ⁽²⁾. Issues related to access to healthcare are regularly discussed and addressed within the framework of the European Semester ⁽³⁾.

Implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan ⁽⁴⁾ objectives, including ensuring high standards of cancer care, is on track, with over 90% of the Plan's actions concluded or ongoing.

In 2025, the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres was launched with EUR 90 million from the EU4Health Programme aiming to provide all patients access to high-quality cancer care.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1949.

⁽²⁾ The Commission supports Member States through EU4Health projects aimed at systemic improvements of accessibility of health systems, especially for vulnerable groups, guidelines on access to healthcare for people with disabilities: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c2959f58-d63d-11f0-8da2-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e86e91df-a97a-11f0-89c6-01aa75ed71a1> and actions focused on health workforce challenges <https://healthworkforce.eu/>, <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/17-06-2025-countries-advance--nursing-action--initiative-to-tackle-nurse-shortages-across-the-eu>, <https://bewell-project.eu>.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/economy-and-euro/european-semester_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/public-health/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.

The Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications ⁽⁶⁾ aims to support the implementation of high standards for quality and safety of medical radiation applications into Member States' health systems.

⁽⁶⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/nuclear-energy/radiological-and-nuclear-technology-health/samira-action-plan_en#:~:text=Adopted%20in%20February%202021%2C%20the,and%20radiological%20technologies%20and%20applications.