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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Safe and equitable access to treatment is an important topic for Member States and a key priority for the Commission. As per Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union[1], Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care, including decisions on the location of facilities and the organisation of patient transport. EU tools monitor EU health systems. For example, the State of Health in the EU cycle[2] includes country-specific analyses, and the European Semester provides country-specific recommendations. In 2020, 2022 and 2023, Greece received recommendations to ensure adequate and equal access to healthcare. In addition, the new Pharmaceutical Regulation[3] and the Critical Medicines Act[4], on which co-legislators found a political agreement respectively in December 2025 and May 2026, aim at improving access and availability of medicines for patients in the EU.

The Commission recalls Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Principle 16 of the European Pillar of Social Rights. However, as stated above, the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care remain the responsibility of the Member States. EU tools and initiatives support Member States to strengthen health systems via knowledge sharing, technical assistance, funding and policy guidance. EU funding instruments include the EU4Health programme, the cohesion policy funds, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=en.
[2] https://health.ec.europa.eu/state-health-eu_en.
[3] COM(2023) 193 final.
[4] COM(2025) 102 final.