

**Question for written answer E-007074/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: State of the health system in Spain

Over the last three years the public health system in Spain has deteriorated as never before. Accumulated cutbacks of over a billion euros made by the Spanish government to the national health budget have seriously affected the quality of the system, which is only maintained by the selfless dedication of health professionals. Staff reductions, with the loss of over 28 000 professionals, and a 25% increase in patient waiting lists and in waiting times for surgical operations (from 73 to 98 days) clearly illustrate the impact of austerity policies and cutbacks.

Does the Commission consider that the policy of cutbacks being applied in Spain in order to meet the deficit targets set by the EU authorities is sustainable in terms of providing proper healthcare to the country's population? Does the Commission not see the decline in the healthcare system as undermining the principles of equality of all citizens and social cohesion?