

**Question for written answer E-009060/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Uniformity between national health systems in the EU

Under Royal Decree 16/2012 EUR 7 billion was cut from the Spanish National Health Service. As a result, the universal healthcare system established under the European social model has been replaced by a kind of 'insurance' system.

The universal right to healthcare has been undermined, and patients will be forced to bear the consequences. Almost 900 000 people in Spain do not have a national health card, including young people and/or workers who have spent over 90 days outside the country. Vulnerable groups such as retired people and the chronically ill are now required to pay copayments (including for medication), almost 30 000 professionals in the public health sector have lost their jobs, emergency services have been closed, vaccinations have been discontinued... the list goes on. This depressing state of affairs has culminated in the atrocious handling of the Ebola crisis.

1. What is the Commission's view of the privatisation of public healthcare services in the EU and what effect does it think this development will have on service quality in the long term?
2. In the Commission's view, is any progress being made in EU Member States towards establishing comparable national health systems, which would help to curb social dumping?
3. Is there any scope for making universal public healthcare a fundamental right under the European social model and ensuring that funding is made available for that purpose?