

**Question for written answer E-000876/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Cross-border healthcare programmes

EU Member States have the best-developed healthcare systems, and there can be no doubt that their healthcare policies are at the highest global levels. However, it is also true that there are huge differences between the Member States, and the greatest healthcare problems affect the countries of the EU's South-East. The EU is trying to bring all aspects of living – including healthcare systems – up to the same level, as far as is possible. A number of cross-border programmes have been created to this end. The EU also has cross-border programmes in the area of healthcare. For the inhabitants of northern Istria, their main healthcare facility for decades was a hospital in Izola. However, since Croatia and Slovenia gained their independence in 1991, the inhabitants of the Croatian part of Istria have found it practically impossible to access the services of the Izola hospital. This is due to the difference in price between the systems in the two countries, as well as the lack of political interest in the competent ministries in Croatia and Slovenia. For the people of Umag, Buje, Novigrad, Grožnjan, Brtonigla and Oprtalj, being able to use the hospital in Izola can be a matter of life and death.

1. Can the Commission say whether there are any cross-border healthcare programmes that ensure additional financing to fund healthcare services for citizens of other countries?
2. Can the Commission propose a different solution that would be of benefit to the inhabitants of cross-border regions?