

**Question for written answer E-005659/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: European Reference Networks

European Reference Networks (ERN) create a structure of specialised medical centres, care providers and laboratories that are organised at cross-border level and certified by Member States. They are a vital tool for the treatment of rare diseases, because they give sufferers access to the specialisation that they would not otherwise be able to obtain in their own country.

Article 12 of Directive 2011/24/EU provides that ‘the Commission shall support Member States in the development of European reference networks between healthcare providers and centres of expertise in the Member States, in particular in the area of rare diseases’.

1. How is the Commission supporting Member States in the development of ERNs?
2. Does the Commission intend to support ERNs financially?