

**Question for written answer E-002280/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Zigmantas Balčytis (S&D)**

Subject: Developing European Reference Networks

Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare provides for the development of European Reference Networks. This would make it possible to take advantage of the opportunities for pan-European cooperation in diagnosing and treating rare diseases, in pooling knowledge about their treatment, and in offering high-quality healthcare services to patients suffering from rare diseases.

What progress has been made in this field, what European Reference Networks have been established so far, and what national healthcare institutions in the Member States are participating in their activities?