

**Question for written answer E-003706/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Availability of treatment for mental disorders and its funding

The incidence of mental disorders, which frequently develop into disease, is increasing as the population ages. With professional help, many problems could be tackled before they develop into chronic disease or even lead to suicide or violence. In many countries the poor find it hard to access the help they need because they need to pay for these services. An additional problem for patients is that there are too few providers. At the same time, faced with a very diverse range of services in this area, users do not always know where to go for help. Slovenia, for example, has, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists and family therapists, all of whom deal with mental illness, but each in their own way. Consequently, users can find it difficult to choose the most appropriate therapist.

1. Does the Commission have information on how the Member States fund the treatment of mental health problems, for example depression, which could provide a basis for countries to learn from each other and to improve, as well as on access to these services for the poorest people in the EU?
2. A unified approach at EU level to defining educational programmes and the professions which deal with the treatment of mental disorders and diseases could promote greater mobility among providers of these services and help to eliminate any discrepancies between supply and demand in individual countries. What action does the Commission intend to take in this area?