

Question for written answer E-004659/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: Regulating the profession of osteopathy

In 1997 the European Parliament voted on the Lannoye report, which called on Member States to regulate four forms of alternative medicine: acupuncture, homeopathy, naturopathy and osteopathy.

Following that vote, and a WHO report published in 2010, a number of countries (e.g. Belgium, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands) have started to adopt legislation on osteopathy, while in others (Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, the UK and Switzerland) osteopathy is now regulated. France legalised it in 2002 before bringing in full regulation in 2014.

Many patients are turning to osteopathy more often as one of the various forms of treatment they choose, as it helps improve their health in specific ways.

It would therefore be appropriate to provide a European framework for the regulation of osteopathy, in order to guarantee patients' safety. There is a need to lay down a definition of the profession and of the skills and qualifications required.

Is the Commission considering establishing a common framework in order to make it possible to lay down uniform requirements for osteopathy training and qualifications, and to ensure that practitioners are able to move freely and practise in all EU Member States?