

**Question for written answer E-004706/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: European Reference Networks

European Reference Networks (ERNs) are newly established virtual platforms for voluntary cross-border collaboration between specialists in rare and complex diseases. The ERN initiative has been well received. Nevertheless, there are still challenges that need to be addressed, such as issues related to interoperability and data confidentiality, as well as legal issues.

Given that ERNs are perceived as a tangible example of EU cooperation in healthcare policy, how does the Commission intend to reduce the inequality in care both between different rare diseases and between Member States, through the ERNs?