

**Question for written answer E-005238/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Presence of parents during hospitalisation as a horizontal principle

In his answer to my question number E-004039/2017 on children's right to have a parent or other accompanying person present for the duration of their stay in hospital, Commissioner Andriukaitis said that health policy and the delivery of healthcare is a Member State competence, and so the Commission cannot take any measures to guarantee children's right to have their parents present during hospitalisation, or ensure that the Member States uphold the Charter on the Rights of Children in Hospital. The European Union, however, has funds which it grants to the Member State for various projects, on the condition that they meet the EU's principles and conditions.

Notwithstanding the restrictions imposed by the EU's founding treaties regarding competence in the area of health policy, is the Commission not planning to protect children's right to have a parent or accompanying person present during hospitalisation by making that a condition for EU funding?

In practice, that means that funding would be granted for the construction of healthcare establishments only if space for parents or accompanying persons is to be provided – not as part of healthcare policy, but for the purposes of guaranteeing children's rights as an important area of human rights protection, which is a key area of EU interest and competence.