

Question for written answer E-006095/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Cross-border healthcare

Thanks to the free movement of people in the European Union, many citizens live or work in a Member State other than their own. The possibility likewise exists of their obtaining cross-border healthcare. However, according to statistical data relating in particular to people with disabilities, a lot of people are not sufficiently aware of this possibility and therefore do not take advantage of it. Furthermore, people who do make use of cross-border healthcare often have to deal with time limits that may not be clearly defined or that are unreasonably short for handling their individual financial entitlements after obtaining such healthcare. Under Article 76 of the Regulation on the coordination of social security systems, competent authorities are bound to act as though implementing their own legislation and, in accordance with the principle of good administration, to respond to all queries within a reasonable period of time. Citizens, however, have no way of working out (since they do not know the time limits set by law in other Member States) how long their claim will take to be processed and are unable to influence the speed with which it is handled.

In light of this, I should like to know:

1. Is the Commission not planning to harmonise the maximum time limits for decisions on claims arising in connection with cross-border healthcare in accordance with Regulation No 883/2004, or to otherwise improve the cooperation between the competent Member State authorities in this domain?
2. How is the Commission raising, or intending to raise, awareness of the available options for using cross-border healthcare, not least in the case of persons with disabilities?