

**Question for written answer E-006453/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: Shortage of medical staff in some parts of the European Union

Since the legislation establishing the mutual recognition of qualifications in medicine came into force, large numbers of medical practitioners have moved to the western Member States. According to the OECD, between 1997 and 2016 72 314 doctors and 73 067 nurses applied to work in an EU Member State other than their country of origin. Most of these people come from countries that have recently joined the EU and move to the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, where salaries are higher.

This movement of workers is a kind of brain drain and is causing problems in the countries of origin, which are being left to cope with a shortage of medical staff. As stated in a *Politico* article dated 28 September 2017, 10% of Romania's population has no access to medical care. In Estonia, many doctors are reportedly being forced to see 30 patients a day, double the average of 15 a day in western Europe. Hungary, for its part, could lose up to 6500 general practitioners over the next 10 years.

1. Against this background, does the Commission intend to carry out a detailed study of the movement of workers in the medical sector?
2. How will the Commission address this imbalance in the distribution of medical staff that is undermining access to healthcare?