

**Question for written answer E-004135/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Medical students

Slovakia has long had a shortage of doctors. According to the Slovak Republic's 2015 Health Sector Annual Report, a total of 18 719 doctors officially work in Slovakia, and 36% of them are over 55 years old, a quarter are over 60 years old and more than 10% are over 65 years old. Of the 2 647 dentists, almost half are over 55 years old, 36.6% are over 60 years old and 16% are over 65 years old. In 2016, Slovakia had a shortfall of 820 specialists.

If Slovakia decides to adopt a national measure under which costs for medical studies would have to be refunded by those graduates who, after completing their studies in Slovakia, leave to work abroad (in EU or third countries) and do not return to work in Slovakia within a period of, for example, five years after completing studies:

1. Is there an example of specific conditions under which such a measure would not be regarded as a restriction on their freedom of movement within the meaning of Articles 21, 45 or 49 TFEU?
2. Under what criteria would the measure be assessed, what legitimate general-interest objective would be acceptable and in what way could it be justified in order to comply with EU law?
3. Is any identical or similar measure currently being applied to medical students in any other EU Member States?