

**Question for oral answer O-000095/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 128

Philippe De Backer

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Subject: Sustainability of healthcare systems in Europe: future challenges

In recent years the sustainability of healthcare systems across Member States has been put under great pressure. An ageing population, mounting chronic diseases and access disparities, combined with the poor economic outlook, threaten to seriously undermine healthcare efficiency and effectiveness in Europe.

In order to guarantee universal access to essential healthcare services, including preventive and follow-up measures, a short-term approach based on cost-cutting only is not the solution. A clear and effective long-term strategy is therefore needed.

In this regard, Member States need to pool resources to decrease costs, delays and other inefficiencies concerning healthcare delivery.

1. What plans does the Commission have to address healthcare inefficiencies in the context of the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester, and of a non-legislative industrial policy initiative for the pharmaceutical sector aimed at stimulating better outcomes?
2. The Cross-Border Healthcare Directive has an important impact on the life of patients with rare diseases, particularly those with rare cancers. Does the Commission believe that implementation of the Directive will suffer from delays?
3. What concrete actions have been planned for the upcoming months in order to enhance harmonisation among EU Health Technology Assessment bodies, with a view to cutting delays in the reimbursement of innovative lifesaving drugs?

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Deadline for reply: 11.9.2015