Priority question for written answer P-000957/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Henna Virkkunen


Finland currently pays health care reimbursements (‘KELA reimbursements’) if a person deliberately goes to another EU or EEA State or Switzerland to use health services. However, these reimbursements cover only a small part of the cost of the health services. If, on the other hand, during a temporary stay in one of those countries, a person suddenly falls ill or needs medical treatment on account of a long-term illness or pregnancy or childbirth, they are entitled to reimbursement on the same basis as if he or she had used public health care in their municipality of origin.

1 Is the Commission’s position still the same as indicated in the Reasoned Opinion of 29 April 2016, i.e. is Finland’s practice contrary to the Directive?

2 What is the Commission’s interpretation of whether Article 7(4) of the Patients’ Rights Directive has direct legal effect in Finland, i.e. should the Finnish authorities interpret the Directive as entitling people who are registered for healthcare purposes as residents of Finland to receive reimbursement for healthcare services used elsewhere in the EU according to the same principles under which they would receive reimbursements for using public healthcare in Finland?

3 In the Commission’s view, is Finland liable for damages in cases where it has incorrectly paid excessively small reimbursements in breach of the Patients’ Rights Directive since the deadline for transposition of the Directive passed?