

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4627/06
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to the Commission

Subject: EU compensatory measures for the Balearic Islands Public Health Department for the health care of Community tourists and residents

The Balearic Islands Public Health Department is facing a new challenge: the additional cost it is having to bear for health care provided not only to tourists visiting the Islands each year but also Community residents.

At the same time, it is clear that there is no real compensation commensurate with the expenditure caused by Community foreigners for whom the Balearic Islands Public Health Department provides care which it then endeavours to recover from their countries of origin. In the case of pensioners and foreigners, the financial compensation does not reach the Balearic Islands area at all. And in the case of tourists, the Balearic Administration only receives 35 % of what it has paid out when providing them with health care, since the funding organisation is the State, and the share of provision is unsatisfactory for many Autonomous Communities which, like the Balearic Islands, are providing very expensive health care that is never reimbursed in full.

In view of this, will the Commission be including in its proposal on health services planned for the first half of 2007 the granting of compensatory measures to the Spanish Public Health Department and, accordingly, to the Balearic Islands for the care of Community tourists and residents?

If not, could the Commission explain what alternative measures it is planning on behalf of the sustainability of the public health system in Spanish regions such as the Balearic Islands, Murcia or Valencia, which provide care every year for a very large number of Community tourists and residents? This problem may lead to a serious financial imbalance and is not exclusive to Spain but is shared with other Member States such as Greece, Italy and Portugal.