

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6612/07  
by Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: One card replacing the national insurance cards and the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

On 19 December 2007, the parliamentary Commission on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety was informed about the delay in publishing the proposal on the directive on cross-border health services. I regret this delay to January 2008 for cross-border health issues.

One cross-border health issue has to be addressed: at present every European citizen with health insurance in their own Member State has the right to receive a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC makes it easier for people to receive medical care abroad in case of emergencies. However today, only a very few people have used this opportunity. Insurance companies are not advocating this opportunity, since the production of this EHIC involves extra costs for them.

The existence of two health cards is a very confusing situation which brings unnecessary bureaucracy. I think that the insurance companies should automatically provide their members with an EHIC. It would be even better if all the information were combined in one card, replacing the EHIC and the national cards and protecting all individual rights on the territory of the EU ('Europe-proof').

Will the Commission come up with the introduction of one insurance card that is 'Europe-proof', replacing the national insurance card as well as the EHIC?