

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0577/09

by Giusto Catania (GUE/NGL) and Roberto Musacchio (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Restricted access to public health services

The Friuli-Venezia Giulia regional authorities are currently discussing the possible introduction of restrictions on access to public health services by third-country nationals illegally resident in the region. The intention is to restrict access to non-urgent treatment (without defining 'non-urgent'), with health service personnel being required to identify patients and report anyone whose papers are not in order to the police. The proposal has been severely criticised by doctors' associations. What is more, it would put an end to the migrant healthcare assistance programmes set up by the previous regional administration.

Would the Commission not agree that legislation of this kind would be in breach of Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in that it would undermine human dignity and hamper respect for the right to life and to the integrity of the person?

Would it not agree that it would also be in breach of the fundamental principles of non-discrimination enshrined in the Treaties?

What action does it intend to take vis-à-vis the relevant authorities?