

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1192/09
by Evangelia Tzampazi (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Cancer screening

The European Union has undertaken a joint commitment to ensure suitable breast, cervical, colorectal and rectum cancer screening, in accordance with Council Recommendation 2003/878/EC¹ on cancer screening. In its first report on the implementation of this measure, published in December 2008, the Commission indicates that despite major progress regarding cancer screening, Member States have failed to implement fully the recommendation, and that less than half of the annual recommended number of screening tests are being carried out in the EU, while less than half of these (41%) are currently being carried out as part of population-based programmes, despite the fact that, as indicated in the Council Recommendation, they provide the necessary organisational framework for quality assurance at all levels.

How does the Commission intend to persuade those Member States which are not currently doing so to carry out population-based screening programmes?

Is the Council satisfied with the information provided by Greece regarding implementation of the above recommendations?

Does the Commission intend to carry out a comparative survey at European level of the measures and policies adopted by the Member States in this area?

Does the Commission have any information regarding the anticipated benefits of implementing the above recommendation?

¹ OJ L 327, 16.12.2003, p. 34.