

**Question for written answer E-003217/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Compliance of the new German electronic health card with the Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC)

By the end of 2011, 10% of Germans are to receive a new electronic health card. According to our information, the new cards are also to include medical data, in contrast to current cards which only contain administrative data. The Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC) puts medical data in a special category which should benefit from even higher levels of protection than administrative data. With regard to the application process for electronic health cards, doubts have been raised concerning the clear identification of health insurance holders when cards are issued. It would seem that people who send their photo to health insurance providers as part of the application process do not need to prove their identity. This means that an electronic health card could be issued bearing the name of an insured person but the photo of another person.

Does the Commission consider that the procedure chosen by Germany for linking cards to individuals complies with the Data Protection Directive and ensures completely secure identification?