

**Question for written answer E-011292/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Louis Grech (S&D)

Subject: Care homes for the elderly in Malta

At present, in Malta, statistics show that the number of people waiting to get into state-run homes is outnumbering the residents. The government has nine homes for the elderly – the largest of which houses 1 129 people and has a waiting list of 822 people. The other eight, which together have 1 000 beds, have a waiting list of 1 107 people. Homes for the elderly owned and run by the Church and those run privately are just as full – each with an occupancy rate of 95 %.

The steering group of the pilot European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing, which is an integral part of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy, has recently agreed on joint actions to tackle the societal challenges posed by Europe's ageing population. Five actions to be launched next year have been put forward, including the spreading and promotion of successful innovative integrated care models for chronic diseases amongst older patients (remote monitoring) and also improving the uptake of interoperable ICT independent living solutions through global standards to help older people stay independent, mobile and active for longer.

In practical terms, how will these two action plans be implemented in the various Member States?

What other sustainable solutions does the Commission have to enable Member States to curb and overcome the problems arising from a lack of homes for the elderly in Member States such as Malta?