

**Question for written answer E-001888/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Relationship between mobility in the internal market and medical care in the EU

One of the most important ways of strengthening the single internal market and promoting economic growth is by supporting the mobility of EU citizens and facilitating mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Together with Parliament, the Council is currently working on modernising the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

At the same time, one of the EU's greatest values is care of its citizens. No one in the Member States should be excluded from medical care. The right to social security and medical care is a fundamental right of every citizen who has a lawful place of residence and has lawfully chosen their place of stay, one which is guaranteed by Article 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

One of the most mobile professions in the EU is that of doctors, and in recent years over 10 000 doctors have settled and started practising in another Member State. Staff of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the WHO's regional office in Europe conducted a study of the effects of the migration of medical specialists in 17 European countries in 2011¹. The study found that the migration of doctors was a phenomenon affecting a number of Member States and was jeopardising basic medical care.

It concluded that political decision-makers must understand mobility patterns in order to be able to react to them accordingly. For this to happen, the availability of relevant, reliable data on the movement of healthcare workers into and out of countries is essential.

1. What action is the Commission taking to identify the mobility patterns of healthcare workers, including those of doctors, within the EU?
2. What action is the Commission taking to ensure that the migration of healthcare workers, including doctors, does not put a strain on medical care in the individual Member States?

¹ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/145158/EuroObserver-Summer-2011_web.pdf