

Question for written answer E-003235/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Erik Bánki (PPE)

Subject: Role of European spas in prevention

In various Commission documents issued over the last two years, the word 'prevention' is used repeatedly. The aim in this regard is to encourage people to do something for their health so that they will remain healthy as they get older. At the same time, the Commission has developed programmes, such as an anti-smoking programme, a programme to prevent obesity, etc.

The aim of all of these initiatives is to maintain and improve people's health.

In the past, national health systems and health insurance funds have always refused to bear the costs of prevention. They argued that the costs are too high, and the people in charge have successfully blocked any progress.

Experience in some EU Member States has shown that the opposite is true, however: prevention reduces the cost of national health systems.

An increasing number of companies now attach a great deal of importance to preventive occupational health care, for example, and they are funding it.

The approximately 1 200 spas and health resorts in the EU Member States are ideal partners for such services: in accordance with the Directive on cross-border health care, the initiative should be taken. Preventive measures are investments in the future.

1. What efforts has the Commission made to present to Parliament a new proposal for a directive on prevention?
2. Why have spas and health resorts in the EU Member States not as yet been involved in the preventive measures, even though they would be ideal for this on account of their infrastructure and expertise?