

**Question for written answer E-005527/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: eHealth services

Our ageing society requires us to make a greater financial commitment to social protection and the right of access to healthcare for the elderly. According to Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, everyone has the right to a high level of health protection.

In the EU, the number of people over 60 years-old is expected to increase by 2 million by 2015. At present, 17.7% of the population in Cantabria is over 65, a figure that is set to rise, and facing a critical situation as a result of the dismantling of health centres and health services in rural areas.

In 2012, the European Year for Active Ageing, several innovative initiatives were tabled to alleviate the problem of ageing and access to healthcare. In the same year, the Spanish Government removed the eHealth services programme from the general state budget. Our population is growing increasingly older and this is a situation which must be addressed as a priority beyond 2012.

Can the Commission say what stage has been reached in the implementation of the strategic plan to address the economic and social problems caused by an ageing European population and how budget cuts affect this plan?

Does the Commission have a proposal to bring innovative health solutions to rural areas, measures to promote early diagnosis, incorporation of innovative technologies in diagnosis and treatment, as well as to improve access to healthcare in remote areas or integrated care models for elderly patients with chronic illnesses?