

EN
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Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the European Commission
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In accordance with EU treaties, the provision of healthcare is the responsibility of Member States, while the Commission provides policy guidance and support to Member States. Access to timely, high-quality and affordable healthcare is one of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights¹, and has been fully integrated into the European Semester process. The European Semester is the Commission's tool to analyse the economic and social developments in the Member States, monitor relevant reforms and propose every year country-specific recommendations. In 2018, twelve Member States have received a country specific recommendation regarding their healthcare system.

Knowledge-building, including in health, is a Commission priority. The Joint Assessment Framework (JAF) for Health includes a set of indicators agreed with Member States in the context of the Social Protection Committee² covering the four dimensions: health outcomes, access, quality and non-health determinants. The reading of these indicators is meant to provide a first-step quantitative screening to detect possible major challenges in each Member State's health systems in the context of the Social Open Method of Coordination. Complementarily, the "State of Health in the EU" cycle produced country profiles for all Member States in 2017³. The Commission is also co-funding the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Patient-Reported Indicators Survey which will fill the knowledge gap on quality of healthcare from the patients' perspective⁴. On demand of Member States, the Commission's Structural Reform Support Service provides technical support to raise quality of healthcare.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en

² <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=758>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/state/country_profiles_en

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/