

**Question for written answer E-002436/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tudor Ciuhodaru (S&D)**

Subject: Regional hospitals

Health is a high priority for Europeans, who are seeking protection from diseases and accidents, as well as healthcare tailored to their needs. Over the coming decades, an ageing population is set to become a major challenge for European Union Member States, compounded by the rising costs of healthcare in Europe, which averaged of 8.7 % of GDP in 2003, compared to 7.7 % in 1990 and 7.1 % in 1980. This increase can be attributed to a number of factors, including increases in pay and per capita income, as well as advances in health technology.

A viable solution remains the ongoing development of regional hospitals providing high standards of health care for all and encompassing cross-border arrangements.

In view of this, what strategy is being followed by the Commission to provide further support for such projects, enabling local and regional authorities to respond uniformly to similar challenges and making it possible to apply new technologies in the field without delay?