Subject: EU support for telemedicine

The report of the Commission advisory body eHealth Stakeholder Group entitled ‘Widespread Deployment of Telemedicine Services in Europe’ has been very positive about the benefits of telemedicine. The marketability of innovations has been examined by EIT Health. Despite its benefits for insular and remote areas, telemedicine is still far from being widely used in Europe. Difficulties include the huge costs of implementing a telemedicine service, interoperability barriers due to the lack of technical infrastructure in the Member States, concerns about the confidentiality and privacy of health data, the lack of ethical rules and proof of concept specifically applicable to telemedicine, the doubts of health professionals about their liability exposure, and especially the unclear legal framework.

1. How does the Commission plan to move forward on telemedicine and ehealth in the EU, especially in island and remote areas?

2. Does the Commission plan to put forward a proposal for a regulation on telemedicine and ehealth?

3. What exact amount of funding for telemedicine and e-health has been absorbed by each Member State in the period from 2014 to 2020?