

Question for written answer E-002562/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen

Subject: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and coronavirus

Coronavirus is presenting our healthcare systems with unprecedented challenges. Needless to say, every effort must be made to tackle this crisis as effectively as possible. However, due to the pressure that the virus is exerting on our hospitals and healthcare workers, many non-essential examinations or consultations concerning cancer are being postponed. In many cases, screening for cancer has virtually come to a halt. In addition, some patients do not dare to go to hospital for fear of becoming infected with COVID-19.

Experts therefore fear that the coronavirus crisis may have damaging side-effects on cancer patients because either treatment or diagnosis is delayed.

1. What practical action will the Commission take to help Member States to resume cancer examinations and treatments speedily, even if patients have to travel to another Member State for them?
2. In working out details of the 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan', will the Commission take into account a possible resurgence of coronavirus or the occurrence of a similar pandemic in future, in order to prepare Member States better for such a scenario?
3. Can the Commission confirm that working out details of the 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan' will remain a priority in the months ahead?