

**Question for written answer E-006157/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ID)

Subject: Calabrian citizens' right to health and protection of public health

Calabria, already the poorest region in Italy and among the poorest in Europe, has recently been included by the Italian Government as one of the 'red' areas required to lock down not because of the worrying increase in cases of COVID-19 infection, but because of the disastrous state of its health service.

However, for more than a decade, this service has no longer been managed by the regional administration, but has been directly managed by the national government; despite that, there have been no positive results in terms of levels of assistance. On the contrary, the number of open hospitals and availability of medical and nursing staff have been significantly reduced over the past 20 years in Calabria, which has become the region with the lowest bed rate and the highest health emigration rate.

Given that one of the pillars on which the EU is based is the protection of public health and the right to health of all its citizens, without exclusion, and since this principle is clearly being disregarded in Calabria, does the Commission not agree that the EU should take specific action by providing non-repayable funding to reorganise and upgrade health services in regions such as Calabria?