Question for written answer E-002348/2021 to the Commission Rule 138 Vincenzo Sofo (ECR)

Subject: Emergency situation in Calabrian hospitals: the case of Locri hospital

To date, the historical problems of the Calabrian health system remain unresolved, reaching the utmost degradation in hospitals such as that of Locri: staff and bed shortages, dilapidated facilities and a lack of a helicopter rescue service are just some of the problems.

The COVID-19 emergency has shown the dramatic consequences of this situation, forcing a region into a state of emergency despite the relatively small number of cases of infection, owing to the inability to take charge of and manage patients.

Given that Article 35 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights stipulates that 'everyone has the right of access to preventive health care and the right to benefit from medical treatment under the conditions established by national laws and practices', clearly this situation is totally detrimental to the right to health of Calabrian citizens and the right to human dignity enshrined in Article 1 of that Charter.

In view of the fact that the national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP), which has just been approved by the Italian Parliament, allocates the smallest share of funds from Next Generation EU to health protection and the upgrading of health systems, how does the Commission intend to ensure that the rights to health and human dignity of the citizens of Calabria and the Locri region, currently in jeopardy, are restored?