Question for written answer E-001012/2022 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Cancer survivors’ right to be forgotten

There are currently 3.6 million people in Italy who have been diagnosed with a tumour, approximately one million of whom have now recovered from cancer. The latter’s medical records, however, lead to banks and insurance companies discriminating against them. All too often a person who has had a tumour of some kind finds it difficult to obtain certain key services such as loans and insurance, to say nothing of the problems involved in finding new jobs or with adoption processes.

The recent Report 2020/2267(INI) ‘Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer’ states that ‘by 2025, at the latest, all Member States should guarantee the right to be forgotten’ to patients who have survived cancer, and that this right should be embedded in the relevant EU legislation.

Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, however, decrees that it is the national authorities which shall have primary responsibility for public healthcare.

The deadline of 2025 is not far off and no laws in this matter have been proposed in the EU. Given these facts:

1. How does the Commission plan to put this rule into effect and ensure it is implemented properly, given the principle of subsidiarity in the healthcare field?

2. How does it plan to penalise any delays in this matter by the Member States?