

**Question for written answer E-000275/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Deteriorating paediatric care in Galicia and paediatric care levels below the European average

Proper paediatric care, which requires specialised training and qualifications, is an essential part of providing children and teenagers with high-quality medical attention. However, a gradual deterioration in the paediatrics network and the dearth of paediatrics professionals in Spain, coupled with the unstable conditions in the industry, have created a troubling trend that has significant repercussions for the local community. As the 2022 country report drawn up in the context of the European Semester showed, Spain's expenditure on health falls short of the EU average. The situation is even worse in Galicia, where health care is overly centralised; and many municipalities are short of paediatricians, leaving more than 7 000 children without proper care¹.

In view of this dire state of affairs and taking into consideration the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee:

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems with access to decent, universal paediatric care in Galicia?
2. With a view to preventing discrimination, can the Commission draw up a recommendation to the Galician Government, calling on it to improve and remedy the serious instability in the industry and disregard for children's health care?

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¹ <https://www.nosdiario.gal/articulo/social/194-concellos-galegos-carecen-pediatra/20230123211045160836.html>