

**Question for written answer E-001111/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lack of legal recognition of aesthetic medicine as a speciality

Due to the fact that most Member States do not recognise aesthetic medicine as a speciality, unregulated practice is very common, which is having an impact on patient health and safety. A study by the Sociedad Española de Medicina Estética (SEME) (Spanish Society for Aesthetic Medicine) has revealed that, in 2021, 15% of patients attending clinics belonging to its members were looking to resolve complications caused by treatments carried out by unqualified practitioners.

This malpractice has a physical and psychological effect on patients. The most common consequences are infections, skin necrosis and loss of vision. These conditions have an impact on patients' finances and on the public health system, which also sees such cases and covers their medical and legal costs.

1. Does the Commission have data at European level on the impact that this structural unregulated practice is having on patient health and on the cost to health systems?
2. If not, are there any plans to assess this situation and to protect patients from procedures carried out by unqualified practitioners?
3. What tools and powers does the Commission have to prevent and avoid cross-border treatment by unqualified practitioners?

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