

**Question for written answer E-001173/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Access to healthcare and emergency services in cross-border territories (case of Alzette-Belval, Luxembourg/France)

The territory of Alzette-Belval is a cross-border area of Luxembourg and France that has around 100 000 inhabitants (roughly 70 000 on the Luxembourgish side and 30 000 on the French side). Overall, health services in the area are limited. While the region has a hospital in Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, hospitals on the French side are further away (about 25-30 km). This has implications for the provision and accessibility of hospital care at home and emergency dispatches, among other things, leaving people on the French side with long travel distances and waiting times for care and emergency services. Calls to the European emergency number (112) from the French part of Alzette-Belval are directed to the closest French hospital, not the geographically closest hospital, which would be in Luxembourg. This considerably increases response and intervention times.

Considering both this cross-border situation, which is representative of similar situations across the EU, and the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe about the proximity of healthcare providers and the need for more EU action on health:

1. Is the Commission looking into providing guidelines for cross-border cooperation in emergency call centres?
2. Is it working on strengthening cooperation within the healthcare sector in cross-border regions to ensure equal access to health services on both sides of a given border?

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