

**Question for written answer E-001424/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Vincenzo Sofo (ECR)

Subject: 'Health desertification' and right to health: Oppido Mamertina hospital

The shortage of doctors, nurses and social workers in Italy and the consequent closure of public health facilities, especially in remote parts of inland areas, are resulting in an alarming 'health desertification', which is making it increasingly difficult for members of the public to access care.

One example is the hospital in Oppido Mamertina (RC), which has been almost completely dismantled in recent years through the gradual closure of almost all of its units, with the last remaining unit, the long-term care facility, now at risk, too. Because of this, the local residents are forced to drive on poor roads for nearly an hour to get to the nearest hospital.

That situation is an undeniable breach of one of the fundamental human rights, the right to health, which is enshrined in Article 35 of the Charter and Article 168 TFEU. The latter gives the European Union the power to take action to support, coordinate or complement the Member States' actions to protect and improve human health.

In view of this, what measures does the Commission intend to take to support and complement Italy's actions in order to ensure the survival of these healthcare facilities? Does it believe it would be useful to review the priorities it negotiated for the NRRP, in which health is the mission with the lowest budget?

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