

**Question for written answer E-001676/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: 'Payback' health care instrument

In 2011, the Italian Government introduced, at national and regional level, limits on National Health Service expenditure on medical devices.

However, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance have shown that those limits were exceeded for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Under the latest decree, that excess spending is to be offset by the 'payback' instrument, whereby companies supplying medical devices contribute 40% of the 2015 total, 45% of the 2016 total and 50% of the 2017 total to the partial reimbursement of extraordinary regional expenditure.

Given that the books for previous years have been closed and taxes have been paid, this is an ill-advised decision which would expose companies to further economic damage, as it poses a major threat to the small- and medium-sized enterprises that supply medical devices and to the jobs that they provide. According to data from the Italian Federation of Hospital Suppliers, for the five-year period 2015-2020 alone, on average, companies would have to repay half of their annual turnover (some EUR 3.6 billion), causing them considerable fiscal difficulties.

This is a clear breach of the system's principle of proportionality.

In the light of the above, does the Commission intend to reprimand Italy by opening infringement proceedings?

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