

Question for written answer E-003582/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Caring for patients in a vegetative state

In Austria, around 150 people are diagnosed with apallic ('vegetative state') syndrome every year. As things stand, there are 600 to 800 people with this condition across Austria. Patients in a vegetative state are severely brain damaged and therefore require assistance from others¹. The care system in the EU is under ever-increasing pressure and faces socio-political challenges as well as funding problems. Even if care systems are designed at national level and the relevant competences will continue to remain with Member States in the future, there are various ways in which the EU can provide substantial support to care systems². Moreover, the challenge EU citizens often face is that they are not sufficiently informed about the (financial) support available from Member States and are therefore unable to access benefits.

1. Is the Commission planning on finding ways to financially support organisations or projects relating to the care of patients in a vegetative state in the outpatient care sector?
2. Would it be possible to apply for funding at EU level for long-term ventilation care, including for the homecare sector?
3. What is the Commission's position on the creation and maintenance of multilingual information portals at EU level to meet the aforementioned information needs of citizens?

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¹ <https://www.wachkoma.at/wachkoma-info/>

² https://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/cep.eu/Studien/ceplnput_Pflegestrategie/ceplnput_Die_kuenftige_EU-Pflegepolitik_vor_grossen_sozialen_Herausforderungen.pdf