

**Question for written answer E-000816/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)

Subject: Shortage of healthcare and long-term care personnel

Europe's population is ageing dramatically. The need for quality healthcare and long-term care services is increasing at the same rhythm. The Member States and the EU as a whole need to start looking for answers to the problem before it reaches a critical phase.

The EU is already experiencing a critical shortage of healthcare personnel such as nurses. This shortage will only become worse during the years to come and has the potential to endanger the EU's crisis resilience and security of supply. At the same time, many other phenomena, such as the advance of climate change, will only increase, rather than reduce, the need for care.

This challenge can only be resolved together at the European level with actions related to working conditions, pay and quality of training of care personnel.

Parliament has already drawn attention to this issue in its resolution on European care in 2022¹.

Does the Commission intend to create a common European strategy to combat the shortage of healthcare and long-term care staff and guarantee the availability of healthcare labour in Europe?

Submitted: 15.3.2024

¹ Resolution of 5 July 2022 towards a common European action on care.
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0278_EN.html.