

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0759/03
by Vitaliano Gemelli (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: The European Commission's medical service

The Commission's reply to written question P-0021/03¹ shows that the appointment of senior staff in the medical service hinged on erroneous reference to the hospital management system in some Member States and on a mistaken desire to equate the prevention and monitoring duties of an occupational health service with the essentially curative aims of hospitals.

The Commission and the other Community institutions are aware of this distinction and have always placed the medical services under the authority of an occupational health physician, thereby adhering in letter and in spirit to the recommendations of the ILO and of the Commission itself.

In the light of the above, and since it is impossible to see which 'non-strictly medical' facets of the medical service justify having an administrative official as the head of that service, does the Commission not consider that the new arrangements for that service are incompatible with the need for a sound management of resources and liable to undermine the principle that there should always be mutual trust between the institution and its officials?

What measures has the Commission taken to prevent the head of the medical service – who has absolutely no medical knowledge – from becoming party, even inadvertently, to health-related data contained in the files processed by the medical service? Has the European Data Protection Supervisor been notified of these measures, pursuant to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000?

¹ OJ C .

² OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1.