

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4833/07
by Mary Honeyball (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Denial of healthcare to British citizens living in France

Is the Commission aware that as of 30 September 2007 the French Government is going to require all British ex-pats living in France who are under the age of 65 and not working to take out private medical insurance at great expense?

This matter has been brought to my attention by a former constituent who is unable to work due to a disability and may be forced to move her family back to the UK as they are unable to meet the high costs of private health insurance. Due to a pre-existing medical condition it will be virtually impossible for her to obtain reasonably priced health insurance. Would the Commission accept that an exception should be made for those with pre-existing conditions?

Does the Commission see this requirement to purchase private health insurance as a restriction on the free movement of citizens within the EU and the right to reside in any Member State, and will it consider taking action to rectify this?