

**Priority question for written answer P-002589/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Biljana Borzan (S&D)**

Subject: Physical therapy

On 4 July 2019 the Government of Croatia sent an official letter of intent to join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism II<sup>1</sup>. This letter was accompanied by an action plan with internal reform measures that were approved on 8 July 2019<sup>2</sup>.

Measure 6.3.3. states: 'Enabling equal access to open public tenders for the provision of physical therapy services for all interested parties [...]'. The deliverable linked to this measure states: 'Croatian Health Insurance Fund announcing a tender for the provision of physical therapy services [...]'.

On 8 July 2020 the Commission announced that the action plan had been fulfilled. The technical report<sup>3</sup> states that the 'Croatian Health Insurance Fund concluded contracts with two new providers of in-home physical therapy, following a tendering procedure [...]'.

Nevertheless, this procedure was only open to providers authorised by the Croatian Ministry of Health to work in the field of in-home physical therapy<sup>4</sup>. This tender excludes physical therapy providers authorised to work under the Croatian Physical Therapy Law<sup>5</sup>.

Given that there is no equal access for all physical therapists, is the Commission's analysis of the fulfilment of Croatia's action plan correct?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40282/letter-of-intent.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/07/08/statement-on-croatia-s-path-towards-erm-ii-participation/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/com\\_opinion\\_on\\_hr\\_erm-ii.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/com_opinion_on_hr_erm-ii.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://hzzo.hr/novosti/natjecaj-za-sklapanje-ugovora-o-provodenju-fizikalne-terapije-u-kuci-bolesnika-za-potrebe>

<sup>5</sup> [https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2008\\_10\\_120\\_3437.html](https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2008_10_120_3437.html)