

**Question for written answer E-001373/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: State of implementation of Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare provided for the creation of European Reference Networks (ERNs). These have been in operation since 2017 and aim at making it easier to diagnose and care for patients whose conditions requires a particular concentration of resources or specialist knowledge.

Over the last few years, the Commission has supported the registration of characteristics and symptoms associated with rare diseases. The availability of this data allows for early diagnosis and, consequently, for the timely provision of medication and appropriate treatment.

However, the slow economic recovery in Member States has limited investment in the healthcare sector, and as such the differences among Member States, or even among the different regions in each Member State, are apparent. At the same time, we have been witnessing an increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases, including rare diseases.

1. Given that the ERNs are funded by European programmes, does the Commission have any information concerning an evaluation of how they operate?
2. With regard to rare diseases, does the Commission have any information on the number and percentage of patients who have already received cross-border healthcare under the above-mentioned directive?

Supporter¹

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