

E-0598/07 13 February 2007

WRITTEN QUESTION by Alyn Smith (Verts/ALE) to the Commission

Subject: Provision of accident and emergency services Answer(s)

The provision of health services across the European Union varies considerably between the EU Member States.

Can the Commission state whether it considers there to be any standards or best practice in relation to the provision of accident and emergency services either by geographical area or population density?

E-0598/07EN

Answer given by Mr. Kyprianou
on behalf of the Commission
(16.4.2007)

According to Article 152 of the EC Treaty, Community actions in the field of public health must respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care. However, there are areas where the economies of scale of coordinated action between all Member States can bring added value to national health systems. The Commission for example funded the project "European Emergency Data Project - EMS-Data-Based health surveillance system"¹, which proposed indicators for emergency services.

In September 2006 the Commission launched a public consultation regarding Community action on health services, based on a Communication of 26 September 2006². The consultation was closed on 31 January 2007. The Commission is now analysing all contributions and will, on this basis, present appropriate proposals before the end of 2007. Some of the issues raised by the Honourable Member might be addressed also as part of that initiative.

The Open Method of Coordination for Social protection, in its application for health care and long-term care, invites Member States to describe, freely selected, examples of good practices that could be of interest for other countries or regions. In the 2006 national reports no such examples were given in relation to the provision of accident and emergency services.

¹ For more information on this project please see
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2002/monitoring/monitoring_2002_07_en.htm

² For more information on the consultation please see
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/community_framework_en.htm