

**Question for written answer E-015146/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Eva Paunova (PPE)**

Subject: Support for medical students

According to a 2013 Commission study, 'the recruitment and retention of health workers is an immediate and urgent issue which must be resolved if a high standard of healthcare is to be maintained.'

The recruitment and retention of qualified medical personnel is particularly problematic in countries such as Bulgaria, where a high proportion of medical graduates either leave to work abroad or move to larger urban areas, where they can expect to earn more. As a result, the more sparsely populated areas are experiencing a serious shortage of medical personnel.

One of the recommendations to emerge from the Commission study is to combine credible, attractive incentives with financial stimuli in an effort to attract specialists to areas with underdeveloped services and keep them there in the long term.

1. Is the Commission planning to publish and distribute a set of best practices for the recruitment of health workers in areas which need them the most?
2. Are there any EU financial mechanisms or grants available for encouraging medical students to stay in smaller towns and sparsely populated areas?