

**Question for written answer E-002831/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D)

Subject: Infringement procedure No 2018/2268 and status of private hospitals in relation to Directive 2014/24/EU

In 2019, the Commission launched infringement procedure No 2018/2268 against Bulgaria, with one of the alleged infringements being its failure to include private hospitals within the scope of its public procurement act (PPA) when transposing Directive 2014/24/EU. If this were to be done in Bulgaria, it would place an added burden on the health insurance fund and hence create an additional burden for all healthcare users in that country. Were Bulgaria to compel private hospitals to conduct public procurement procedures for the supply of medicines and medical supplies, this could potentially delay patients' access to the treatment they need.

Given these circumstances:

1. Was any specific claim or report made by members of the public/NGOs to trigger the procedure?
2. Has the Commission carried out a legal and financial analysis of the status of private hospitals in the EU in relation to the provisions of Directive 2014/24/EU and do such hospitals fall within the scope of that directive as contracting authorities and bodies governed by public law?
3. How does the Commission view the fact that private hospitals in other EU countries like Germany, the Netherlands and Austria are also not covered by local legislation transposing Directive 2014/24/EU?

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