

**Question for written answer E-002290/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ria Oomen-Ruijten (PPE)

Subject: Problems faced by EU students in the Netherlands

Pursuant to Article 11(1)(b)(IV) of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009¹, EU students continue to be covered by social insurance in the Member State which finances their studies. EU students studying in the Netherlands are registered as residents by the Dutch population registry. The Netherlands does not check what social insurance cover these students have (inter alia to cover medical expenses). On the basis of this registration, EU students are registered in the Netherlands as 'uninsured residents'. Consequently, 15 000 EU students have received letters instructing them to take out health insurance policies in the Netherlands immediately, upon pain of a fine of €350.

1. Can or must the Dutch population registry check whether EU students are insured in another Member State pursuant to Article 11(1)(b)(IV) of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 (submission of an EHIC)? Is the EHIC actually permitted if students are studying and residing in a Member State long-term (for 4 years)?
2. Can students reside in two Member States simultaneously? Must EU students who are studying in the Netherlands long-term (for 4 years) cease to be registered as residents of their country of origin, where they have social insurance cover?
3. In order to be eligible to pay tuition fees at the lower rather than the higher rate, EU students must actually be resident in the Netherlands or nearby border regions. This residence requirement may be contrary to Community law. Are infringement proceedings now pending against the Netherlands?
4. Would it not be worthwhile to formulate a separate designation rule for cross-border students? And would it then not be helpful if the Member State of origin issued a certificate of 'legislation applicable'?

¹ Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems.