

## FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL   
COMMISSION 

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 110) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): Milan Cabrnoc	
SUBJECT: Legality of Czech Regional Governments Intervention in the Health Care Market (please specify)	
TEXT:  <p>In the Czech Republic patients have had to pay, since January 1, 2008, regulatory fees for an item on prescription, for a visit to surgery, for stay in hospital and for a visit to after hours. Regulatory obligation to pay the fees is required by law number 48/1997 Coll.</p> <p>Total number of 13 self governing regions have decided to "abolish" the fees in regional hospitals that fall under their respective jurisdiction from February 2009. Support is provided in form of a gift for patients to cover the payment of regulatory fees. The support which is referred to as a gift may be consumed by patient only in selected health care facilities. Elsewhere, the regulatory fees have to be paid by the patient.</p> <p>As a result of this procedure part of service users (patients) have been discriminated. Patients from distant locations cannot benefit from the services under same conditions as residents living in close proximity. Also the guarantee of aid prevents the free movement of people.</p> <p>The same applies to services and service providers. The selected providers are favoured by the guarantee of regional government of payment of regulatory fees while other providers are harmed by this act. According to the Czech Chamber of Pharmacists the public support provided by regions has led to 90% drop in number of patients in the pharmacies where public support is not provided.</p> <p>Regional governments have been intervening in the market; as a result free competition has been seriously limited.</p> <p>I would like to ask the European Commission if the procedure of regions is in conformity with the Treaty establishing the European Community namely Article 3 paragraph 1, Article 4 paragraph 1, Article 81 paragraph 1.d) and Article 87 paragraph 1.</p> <p>I also request the European Commission to take action and investigate the possible illegal state aid and to adopt measures that would guarantee protection of free competition on the market as soon as possible.</p>	
Signature(s):	Date: 31st of March 2009