

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Working conditions of doctors in Europe

In a report published in 2016¹, the European Commission defined arduous work as follows:

“Occupations involving the exposure of the worker over a period of time to one or several factors leading to professional situations susceptible to leave long-lasting and irreversible effects on his/her health; these factors are related to physical constraints, psychosocial risks, an aggressive physical environment, working organisation and working rhythms, including shift work.”

According to a recent study conducted by the European Federation of Salaried Doctors (FEMS), the working conditions of doctors meet all these criteria, particularly in the more demanding medical specialisations. Furthermore, the current shortage of doctors has further deteriorated their working conditions, increasing the physical and psychological demands of their profession².

In light of the above:

- 1 Does the European Commission intend to promote a European initiative to define common criteria for fair remuneration, safe working hours, and the recognition of the physical and psychological risks faced by doctors as arduous or hazardous work?
- 2 Does the European Commission plan to initiate a dialogue with Member States and social partners with a view to harmonising the implementation of national legislative standards on this issue?

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e23e8180-9ac9-11e6-868c-01aa75ed71a1>

² FEMS, White Book, 2024