

European Commission launches consultation on preliminary opinion on access to health services

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The European Commission together with the ‘Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health’ have launched a public consultation on the preliminary opinion on the ‘Access to health services in the European Union’ (EU).

The preliminary opinion seeks to highlight barriers to accessing healthcare and discusses possible policy responses to address them.

It focuses on the needs of underserved groups as Roma, undocumented migrants and people with mental health problems.

Access to healthcare was improved in the EU between 2005 and 2009 and the number of people who reported that their medical needs were not being met fell from 24 million to 15 million over that period of time. However, the economic crisis in Europe reversed this positive trend and 18 million EU citizens reported needs which had not been met by healthcare, in 2013.

Those interested in submitting contributions should do so by 6 November.

The preliminary opinion is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/opinions/docs/o10_access_healthcare_en.pdf.

To read more about the consultation and to contribute, see here: http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/consultations/access_healthcare_en.htm