

R4 For a Healthcare System that enables

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Agenda item: 6. Resolutions

Motion text

1 Glossary

2 **Disability:** permanent or temporary health impairment. This includes - but is not
3 necessarily limited to - physical and mental disabilities, neurodiversities, and
4 chronic illnesses.

5 **Health service:** service provided by any actor, institutional or not, that
6 relates to the health sector. This includes - but is not limited to - medical
7 tests and surgeries.

8 **Healthcare system:** conglomerate of institutions and organisation at the disposal
9 of a certain group of people (generally on a national level) with the goal of
10 offering health services to them.

11 Resolution

12 Healthcare systems should be a life-saving essential tool, not an obstacle to
13 freedom of movement.

14 We are supposed to live in an Europe of freedoms. The economic freedom, the
15 freedom of speech, freedom of cult, and, of course, the freedom of movement
16 guaranteed to European citizens thanks to the Schengen Agreement.

17 This last freedom, like the previously mentioned one, is nowadays still
18 hypocritically considered one of the milestones of the European Union and
19 Europe, but in reality is a freedom that accommodates only the needs of
20 privileged people. A freedom available only for those few people who can afford
21 it (economically and metaphorically). There are a variety of elements in the
22 system that make this dominance possible; among them, the healthcare system is
23 one that particularly inhibits people with disabilities and coming from lower
24 classes.

25 We, Young European Greens, consider the current absence of a common healthcare
26 system in Europe a systemic ableist and classist violence against the freedom of
27 movement of people with disabilities and - on a lower degree - of people from
28 lower classes.

29 While the Schengen Area allows all Europeans citizens to move "freely" among the
30 different countries who signed the agreement, people with certain health
31 conditions that need treatments and medications often are not able to enjoy this
32 fundamental rights, either partially (not being able to move elsewhere) or fully
33 (not being able to travel at all). This happens because of many reasons (e.g.
34 lack of accessibility in the means of transportation), and the lack of a common
35 healthcare system is without any doubt an important aspect of this lack of
36 movement.

37 Without a common healthcare system, moving across Europe for a person with a
38 disability could mean not being able to access the medicines that they need to
39 take regularly to survive or having to pay much more for them, creating a double
40 discrimination towards poorer people with disability who cannot afford them.

41 Moving to another country means also having to register for the national
42 healthcare system of that country, which means also losing every right in their
43 native country. This means that people who depend on treatments given in only
44 one of these countries and that depend on these treatments for their survival
45 have to choose between renouncing their treatment or having to pay thousands of
46 euros for them. Another option, equally dangerous, is for them to not register
47 in the new country to avoid losing their rights in their native country.
48 Depending on the country, this may make them in all aspects "illegal" migrants
49 who have not affordable access to health services in their new country.

50 At the end of the day, the fate of the people with a disability are defined by
51 the national rules of the healthcare systems from the country they move from and
52 to, and by their wealth, making this a double systemic violence that needs to be
53 beaten.

54 For this reason:

- 55 • acknowledging the first steps taken by the European Union in the last
56 years to make the EU a more inclusive space towards people with
57 disabilities;
- 58 • acknowledging that these steps are welcome but far from being enough;

59 • acknowledging the fact that nowadays the freedom of movement of people
60 with a disability depends on the country they were born in;

61 • acknowledging therefore that the freedom of movement is a privilege owned
62 by people without disabilities and, to a certain extent, to people with
63 disabilities that come from upper classes;

64 we, Young European Greens, ask for:

65 • a common healthcare system that allows people to benefit from the health
66 services they need wherever they live and from whichever country in the EU
67 they come from;

68 • an inclusive system that is affordable to everybody;

69 • a system that includes easy access in all Europe to the medicines that are
70 necessary to live but also more complex treatments, which means also
71 facilitating travels for health reasons if these treatments are not
72 present in the country the person lives in.

73 This is a fundamental step to allow people with disabilities in Europe to have a
74 normal and dignified life wherever they want to establish themselves.