

R4 For a Healthcare System that enables

Proposer: écolo j and Vihreät nuoret
Agenda item: 6. Resolutions

Motion text

Glossary

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

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

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

Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For this reason:

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

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

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

we, Young European Greens, ask for:

- a common healthcare system that allows people to benefit from the health services they need wherever they live and from whichever country in the EU they come from;
- an inclusive system that is affordable to everybody;
- a system that includes easy access in all Europe to the medicines that are necessary to live but also more complex treatments, which means also facilitating travels for health reasons if these treatments are not present in the country the person lives in.

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