EP patient mobility timetable delayed

(11 February 2009, Brussels) With over 700 amendments tabled, European Parliament committees ENVI and EMPL started the long task of scrutinising the merits of the directive for cross border healthcare.

The committees, which tackle Environment and Public Health, and Employment respectively, held initial debates on the Commission's proposal.

Reports from the Parliament suggest that the timetable already indicates that the directive will probably not be brought to first reading before the elections in June. The EMPL committee has also recently requested an opinion on the directive from the Legal Affairs (JURI) committee. UK conservative John Bowis MEP, who has been designated rapporteur in the ENVI committee, has announced that he will not be standing in the June elections.

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