

**Manuscript**  
**EU - health**  
**BRT, Germany**

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## **Translation**

### **EU and health**

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Presenter: Health concerns everybody – and not only in our own country. Unfortunately, dangerous diseases, such as tuberculosis and hepatitis in east Europe, for example, are gaining ground again. It is therefore appropriate to ask what the EU actually does to protect our health. A question that raises a couple of other questions, here, in the pedestrian zone in Nuremberg:

Question 1:           How does our health system fit into the European health system?

Answer:               That is a difficult question. What is actually the health system? We are currently reforming it and in the future we will have to pay more and more from our own pockets. And it is clear that this is only the beginning of a trend towards having to pay more ourselves and towards prevention measures.

Question 2:           Is it somehow possible to implement a common European health system based on equality?

Answer:               No – Europe really is diverse. Everything we want is a European framework. That is to say, that if people work abroad, which more and more people do, they must have access to medical treatment. Of course, it is all about the vying of different approaches for finding a solution. The European Union means unity but at the same time diversity in areas where competition offers better solutions. This is a very important approach that we support.

Question 3:           Well, I have heard that tuberculosis is gaining ground again. And I would really like to know what the EU does in order to protect us from possible risks.

Answer:               It goes without saying that the EU can be much more effective in stopping this trend by cooperating with each other instead of each country fighting it individually. We have introduced a tuberculosis day, on which a big meeting takes place in India that aims at managing risk of tuberculosis. This is the result of globalisation, that is to say there are diseases and viruses like tuberculosis, SARS and BSE everywhere in the world that, at the end of the day, can only be overcome if the countries cooperate in building a safety network. That is to say it should work like a firewall that protects computers from viruses. This is one of the tasks of the European Community, the European

Union. We should install a firewall, if borders are opened. And it goes without saying that we need the EU member states to cooperate. This is only logical.

Question 4: How could EU politicians make it clearer to citizens what they are doing at the moment and what they plan to do in the future?

Answer: There is a General Office and a commissioner for these questions – David Byrne – that has already recognized this problem. For one thing, you can get information on their website. The European Commission tries to involve the citizens more when it comes to health and, as a matter of fact, any other topics. Last Friday, we discussed that in Dublin in the regional committees. We want the regions and communities to become more involved and thus reach out for the citizens. And due to our internet forum we try to intensify discussions with the people involved about new developments of the EU even before decisions have been made. That is one of our objectives for the future.