

**Question for written answer E-007136/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Need to find places for all children in public nurseries and kindergartens

Thousands of children from working class families will be unable to find places in nurseries this year because they are excluded from municipal facilities and their parents are unable to pay the exorbitant fees charged by private establishments. NSRF funding per child has fallen again this year. The children of public and municipal employees and unemployed mothers are being excluded from public facilities. The need for child care and education is thus becoming an area of commercial activity; this is intensifying the insecurity and anguish felt by young households and means that workers are being deprived of the right to such facilities. Any use of EU programmes and NSRF funds for structures to support children and the family is accompanied by a decrease in State funding, leading to an overall decline in public facilities for children.

How does the Commission view the just demands of working and unemployed parents voiced by unions and grass roots organisations that public child care and education facilities in Greece should be expanded and supported, that the payment of fees by such parents should be abolished, that all applications should be accepted and that all Greek and immigrant children, in particular from families of the unemployed, should be admitted without any terms or conditions, that no contract workers at kindergartens should be dismissed, that all such contract workers should have their contracts renewed forthwith and that recruitment should be opened up in this crucial area so that there are an adequate number of permanent staff?