

**Question for written answer E-005180/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)**

Subject: Caesarean sections performed in Greece

On 1 March 2013, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women expressed its concern at the very high percentage of Caesarean sections performed in Greece in public hospitals (40 %) and private hospitals (up to 65 %) hospitals for no good medical reason. The percentages reported in Greece are higher than anywhere else in the world and well above the 15 % which the World Health Organisation (WHO) considers sufficient to cover medical cases.

The Committee urged Greece to reduce the number of Caesarean sections performed for no good medical reason and to introduce strict controls on medical indications for Caesarean sections, in order to bring percentages in line with the WHO recommendation.

The Greek government agreed to advise the WHO committee by 1 May 2015 of the measures implemented in response to the UN Committee's urgent recommendations to reduce unnecessary Caesarean sections.

1. Does the Commission have statistics on the number of Caesarean sections performed in the EU Member States? Which States have the highest and which have the lowest reported percentages? What is the percentage of Caesarean sections performed in Greece? Why are there such large deviations between the percentages reported by Member States and how could they be reduced with a view to achieving the 15 % recommended by the WHO?
2. What are the consequences of unnecessary Caesarean sections on the health of mothers and why has the number of Caesarean sections increased? Is it for financial motives?
3. Are research programmes to reduce Caesarean sections and public awareness campaigns on the associated risks being funded?