

**Question for written answer E-005540/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Shortage of doctors on the islands following health cuts under the memoranda

Island inhabitants live in fear of being struck by a health problem, given the degree to which hospitals and regional surgeries are malfunctioning thanks to the Troika and the memoranda.

Residents of Skopelos were recently forced to have x-rays taken by a veterinarian as no other x-ray machines are available.

One of the most important problems is that there are not enough ambulances or the ambulances have no crews. On many islands, one ambulance is worked in shifts. Also, regional medical centres on the islands are functioning below par, as there are too few rural doctors to staff them.

Finally, the chronic problem of the lack of permanent doctors in numerous specialisms in hospitals has still not been resolved and this is forcing residents to consult private doctors, which they cannot afford, and A&E departments to shut down in large hospitals in other towns.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What measures does it intend to take to safeguard access for all island residents to the health system, irrespective of where they live?
2. Does it intend, in collaboration with the Greek authorities, to revise various operational programmes in order to finance actions to safeguard access for island residents to the health system?