

Question for written answer E-008364/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Recruitment for the re-opening of the Lamia General Hospital operating theatre

Article 168 TFEU states that Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health.

In Greece, however, health expenditure has been drastically cut in line with Troika memorandum requirements, thereby undermining the provision of essential health services.

Lamia General Hospital, for example, is the largest in mainland Greece with patients being admitted for surgery on a daily basis from the Evritania, Fokida, Fthiotida and Evia regional hospitals and 3 500 operations being performed annually in its intensive care units.

However, although it has vacancies for eight specialist anaesthesiologists, only two of these posts have been filled, one by a doctor seconded from another hospital and one by a junior consultant. This is making it impossible to carry out surgery and the hospital director has been forced to announce the closure of the operating theatre until further notice.

In view of this:

What action will the Commission take, together with the Greek authorities, to ensure that the vacancies at the Lamia General Hospital can be filled and the operating theatre reopened immediately?