

Question for written answer E-009699/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Increase in child poverty and social exclusion in Greece due to the financial cuts under the memorandum of understanding imposed by the Troika

According to a survey by Eurostat, more than one in four children are exposed to the risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, with Greece lying in third place among the 28 EU Member States.

The poverty rate in Greece is 36.7% for children younger than 17 years old. The most recent report by the Hellenic National Commission for Unicef on the state of children in Greece revealed that in the most recent decade child poverty grew by 6.3%, while in 2014 it is estimated that 424 000 children were below the poverty threshold.

In 2015, the level of deprivation of basic goods and services, such as rent, electricity, heating and food, had worsened dramatically, reaching 36.6% for single-parent households and 31.3% for large families. In addition, malnutrition is increasing, with many pupils fainting at school from hunger. It is clear that when the necessities of life are not present at a sensitive time such as childhood, it is impossible to protect and promote the fundamental rights of the child.

As a member of the Troika, will the Commission continue to impose harsh financial cuts on Greece despite the adverse social consequences mentioned above?