

Question for written answer E-009700/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Increase in number of refugees in Lesvos and shortage of medicines and children's vaccines on the island

In Greece, shortages of children's medicines and vaccines are severe in view of the increased needs in the country resulting from the refugee crisis.

According to the Pan-Hellenic Pharmaceutical Association, the shortage of vaccines for children, such as hepatitis B vaccine, and of medicines used for neuro-psychiatric conditions in areas with a high number of refugees is expected to result in serious public health problems.

Moreover, there is a major shortage of influenza vaccines, while often a mismatch can be seen between the quantities ordered and the availability of medicines, as is the case in Lesvos. The Pharmaceutical Association of Lesvos has already condemned the massive shortage of medicines on the island, and is expected to lodge a complaint against the firm responsible for the provision of medicines to Lesvos.

In view of this:

1. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the subsidies from the EU and from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the provision of medicines and children's vaccines to the children on the island of Lesvos are actually used?
2. What measures will it take to immediately cover the current medicine shortages in Greece?