

Question for written answer E-000466/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Allocation by the EU of EUR 50 million to cover the cost of special care in Greece

The government decision to impose spending cuts of EUR 48 million on special care has provoked a storm of protest from the thousands of providers of special education/special care services that help children and adolescents with autism, speech problems and developmental difficulties.

This measure will affect a vulnerable group of the population – children with developmental, psychiatric and neurological disorders, often with disabilities – while at the same time threatening the jobs of over 5 000 employees in this sector.

This is particularly serious as the remuneration of providers has now been set by the national healthcare system (EOPPY) at the humiliatingly low rate of EUR 1.23 'per session' compared to the customary rates of EUR 25-40. Moreover, the terms applied unilaterally by EOPPY, including a claw-back clause, mean that the agreement is not economically viable for the providers. It is thus becoming a real possibility that the special care provided for children will have to be suspended.

In view of the above, can the Commission say what steps it intends to take, bearing in mind also the relevant provisions of the TFEU, to ensure that EOPPY is adequately funded – to the tune of at least EUR 50 million – so as to enable the existing regime of paying the expenses of insured persons to continue without hindrance and providers to continue to be paid at the customary rates?