

Question for written answer E-001636/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Threat to persons with autism

The neo-liberal fiscal adjustment programme in Greece which is based on evaluations of the Greek government's performance and compliance has led to the imposition of drastic cuts and even the abolition of a range of welfare benefits, disability pensions and other similar benefits for the most vulnerable groups in society.

The recent legislative package on determining the degree of disability of persons with autism has led to a de facto dramatic reduction in the number of potential beneficiaries of welfare support. Until recently, all autism sufferers were determined to have a degree of disability of at least 67%, which is the threshold for receiving the relevant allowance in Greece.

The new framework allows them to be classified at a minimum of 50% disabled, which has created a new category of disabled persons who are 'ineligible for support'.

Apart from the fact that this measure calls into question the permanent nature of the classification of autism as a disability and allows the classification of persons with autism as disabled to be reversed, the callous exclusion of our most vulnerable fellow citizens from receiving basic State assistance will mean that they are unable to meet the costs of their treatment and afford the indispensable means for leading a decent life. In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- 1) Are the above measures compatible with the positive obligations imposed by the EU Treaty, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the ECHR?

- 2) What method do other Member States use to determine who should receive an autism disability allowance?