

**Question for written answer P-008950/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Immediate measures to make school buildings in Heraklion (Crete) resistant to earthquakes

A number of school buildings in Crete, particularly in the prefecture of Heraklion, are giving cause for great concern. Each day, thousands of children are being taught in buildings that have not been inspected for resistance to earthquakes, in classrooms in that are, for the most part, old, dangerous and built to outdated earthquake protection standards. As a result, their safety in the event of an earthquake cannot be guaranteed. Furthermore, earth tremors frequently cause plaster to become detached, which is anything but reassuring for parents.

The municipality of Heraklion has not yet drawn up a comprehensive inventory of all problems and requirements relating to the buildings or completed earthquake resistance inspections of school buildings, which have been subjected to visual checks only.

As a result of the economic crisis and the measures introduced under the memorandums, funding for school buildings has been cut by between 65 % and 75 %, making it harder to design and build new school facilities or pay contractors what they are owed, thereby bringing current projects to a halt.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what measures it intends to take, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, to ensure that school buildings in Heraklion (Crete) are resistant to earthquakes?