



19.12.2013

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition 0073/2013 by Christos Vlachojannis and Jannis Leventakis (Greek), bearing 3 400 signatures, on the public health situation on the Greek islands of Paros and Antiparos**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioners, the mayors of Paros and Antiparos, have grave concerns about public health on their islands. As a result of the economic crisis, medical care provision has deteriorated drastically, in particular when it comes to medical care for children. Women's groups on the islands have therefore had to call in Médecins Sans Frontières to help get children vaccinated. The petitioners think that that is a shameful situation for Greece and for Europe. They are calling on the European Parliament to use its influence on the Greek Government to find a solution to the public health problems and to liberate the residents of these islands from their permanent uncertainty in relation to medical care.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 4 November 2013. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 19 December 2013

The Commission has been informed that the Greek Ministry of Health is aiming at the radical restructuring of the NHS in order to develop a system which will fully meet the health needs of the population but also ensure its sustainability for the next generations. In so doing, the Ministry of Health is proposing a number of reforms in different areas of the health system, one of which is primary health care. The Commission supports the aim of these efforts to reform and restructure the Greek health system and, through the Task force for Greece, the

authorities are being given assistance in preparing a strategic plan in public health.

In line with the memorandum of understanding between the Greek authorities and the TROIKA there are regular review missions to monitor how this restructuring is taking place. Any concerns or clarifications are brought up for discussion.

### Conclusion

As part of the on-going dialogue with Greek authorities, the Commission raised and will continue to raise any relevant public health concerns and others related to quality and access to care, in respect of the boundaries of the Commission's mandate and in support of reform efforts undertaken by Greece. The Commission will pay particular attention to the issue raised in the petition.