

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3238/09
by Eva-Britt Svensson (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Payment to avoid military service in Greece

Niclas Svedman was born on Rhodes in 1983. His mother is Swedish and his now deceased father was Greek. When he was three years old, the family moved to Sweden. Niclas has been a Swedish citizen his entire life, as well as holding Greek citizenship. Niclas has never returned to Greece since 1986 but now wishes to travel to Greece. If Niclas goes to Greece, however, he must perform military service there, unless he pays the Greek State 1 822.50 euro. Niclas does not, however, have the financial resources to buy himself out of military service. Niclas does not speak a word of Greek but is, nevertheless, regarded primarily as a Greek citizen by the Greek State.

One of the European Union's objectives is to enable individuals to move freely within the Union.

What does the Commission intend to do to enable individuals in Niclas's situation to move within the Union without having to pay to avoid military service?