

EN
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Answer given by Mr Dalli
on behalf of the Commission
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Member States provide perinatal mortality data to the Commission regularly on a voluntary basis. There was a slight increase in such mortality¹ in Greece from 2009 to 2010 from 4.6 to 5.0 per thousand of total births. Overall, the situation has however improved in Greece in the past two decades taking into account that the Greek perinatal mortality rate in 1993 was 10.9 per thousand of total births.

Infant mortality rates² that focus on live births have halved in the EU-27, from 8.7 to 4.3 per thousand of live births between 1993 and 2009; in Greece, the trend is very similar, infant mortality rate has declined from 8.5 per thousand live births in 1993 to 3.1 in 2009.

It should also be noted that in Greece, the number of active physicians or doctors has increased significantly from 55 556 in 2005 to 69 030 in 2009. As regards the number of nurses, there is a slight increase, from 36 666 in 2005 to 37 306 in 2009, as well as for the number of hospital beds from 42 884 in 2005 to 45 729 in 2009. However, it is not possible to link this information on professionals / facilities to natal care in particular.

The Commission is co-funding the project Europeristat³ which is a network of experts from all over Europe working on indicators on perinatal health. A first European Perinatal Health Report was published in December 2008 and will be updated by the end of 2012.

¹ The "perinatal mortality rate" is calculated as the ratio between the number of deaths of children under one week of age plus the stillbirths to the number of total births in that year (including stillbirths)

² The "infant mortality rate" is calculated as the ratio between the number of deaths of children under one year of age to the number of live births in that year

³ <http://www.europeristat.com/>