

**Question for written answer E-010606/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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**Subject:** Public service staff reductions by Greece as a consequence of European austerity policy

In recent months, there have been numerous complaints from Greek citizens in Germany in connection with procedures at the Greek Consulate General in Düsseldorf. The process of applying for a passport currently takes at least three months, and requests for other documents, such as birth or marriage certificates, also take several months. It is currently impossible to reach the staff of the Consulate General by telephone. These delays have a considerable detrimental impact on the day-to-day lives of Greek migrants.

Several talks with representatives of the Greek Consulate have failed to result in any improvements. The employees stated that, on account of the austerity measures taken by the Greek Government, they are barely able to cope with the work that comes in. These are the real-life consequences of the Troika policy.

1. What is the Commission's view of the reduction in public service staff that the EU has required Greece to make, and which is having a direct effect on Greek citizens living in other EU countries?
2. Is it aware of these sorts of consequences of the rigid austerity policy in the crisis-stricken EU Member States?
3. In its opinion, how can the essential services for Greek citizens be maintained despite the austerity measures?
4. Is it considering taking measures in order to maintain essential services for EU citizens despite the austerity measures?