

**Question for written answer E-004526/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)

Subject: High rate of caesarean sections and choice of delivery procedures

In Greece, 58% of deliveries involve surgery, the percentage being similar in public and private maternity hospitals. According to the World Health Organisation, however, caesarean section is medically justifiable for only 15% of births and the average for the EU is no more than 30%.¹

In Greece, from being a procedure followed only where strictly necessary for medical reasons, caesarian section has rapidly become a socially acceptable and timesaving option selected for the convenience of both doctors and parents.

Many caesarean sections carried out for non-medical reasons are motivated largely by concern to protect the medical profession from the growing number of lawsuits brought by parents in cases where this method has not been used. Added to this is the growing tendency for Greek women to give birth later in life, putting still greater pressure on the understaffed national health service. There are simply not enough obstetricians, midwives and anaesthesiologists to provide services such as epidural analgesia around the clock.

In view of this:

- Will the Commission support efforts to raise awareness among all concerned regarding appropriate and optimal delivery procedures, making a clear distinction between normal and invasive procedures and underlining the possible effects on the health of mother and child of unnecessarily (induced) premature delivery?

¹ <http://www.kathimerini.gr/906348/article/epikairothta/ellada/rekor-kaisarikwnm-tomwn-sta-dhmosia-nosokomeia>