

Question for written answer E-002859/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Need for modern, public and free nurseries for all children

According to the figures for 2017, 24 000 children were excluded from vouchers for free nurseries; moreover 17 000 or so applications were considered invalid at the outset, and thousands of poor families failed to submit an application because they may have earned one euro more than the income threshold. 10 000 children received a voucher, but were unable to use it because there was no corresponding facility in their area.

Government announcements about the establishment of 400 municipal crèches for 10 000 children – apart from the fact that they will not be able in any case to cover the needs of all working-class families, as the funds provided are extremely limited – signal a reduction in the cost of services provided for all children. This also means that the cost and shortcomings will be borne by working class families.

A typical example of the current situation is the closure, for the time being, of three kindergartens in the municipality of Athens, on the grounds that the buildings are inappropriate according to a Presidential Decree of the SYRIZA-ANEL government of which sets strict standards but fails to provide for any financing for the construction of new or the renovation of existing buildings.

How does the Commission view the demand that:

- no child should remain without a nursery place?
- there should be modern, public and free nurseries, without vouchers, shortcomings or exclusions, housed in suitable, modern and safe buildings which are fully staffed?