

**Question for written answer E-001510/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Unlawful consecutive fixed-term public health contracts in Greece

A freeze on recruitment over the last few years has cut jobs in the public healthcare system by 25% and has instituted a practice whereby workers on fixed-term contracts, rather than permanent staff, are being hired to cover long-term needs.

More specifically, staff currently employed on continually renewed contracts include:

1 200 auxiliary staff members who have been working for periods of between 24 months and five consecutive years;

3 700 staff members who, regardless of being hired through OAED (Hellenic Manpower Employment Organisation) jobseeker schemes, are employed in long-term roles exceeding 24 months;

an unspecified number of workers hired on fixed-term contracts as cleaners, security guards and caterers in hospitals for longer than the 24-month period, after which open-ended employment contracts must be awarded under Greek law (Presidential Decree 186/2003).

In view of the above, and bearing in mind Directive 1999/70 concerning the misuse of successive fixed-term contracts as well as the judgements made by the European Court of Justice^{1 2}:

1. Can the Commission give its assurance that, if EU law is being infringed, the fixed-term contracts in question must be converted into open-ended contracts, even if this is prohibited by national law?
2. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that the Greek Government awards open-ended contracts to those concerned, thereby ending this reliance on contract staff?

¹ Case C-16/15, 14 September 2016.

² Case C-331/17, October 2018.