

**Question for written answer E-001543/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Extending the financing of social structures by the European Social Fund

Decision No 117336 of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism provides greater scope for essential social structures to be able to offer a range of services co-financed by the European Social Fund in the form of regional operational programmes, such as day care centres for the elderly, support for homeless people and shelters for women affected by violence, etc.

However, the Association of social structures to combat poverty has complained that services such as social groceries, soup kitchens and pharmacies have been excluded from this extension of financing and operating structures without prior explanation by the Greek government.

These particular social structures are a last support for a large segment of the Greek population, particularly the most vulnerable, who are facing the tragic and devastating effects of the economic crisis and austerity policies implemented by successive Greek governments and the European Union.

Given that, according to the Association of social structures to combat poverty, these social structures are accepting tens of thousands of our fellow citizens and that applications for new registrations are increasing constantly, can the Commission say:

1. Why has the Greek Government decided to reduce social structures for tackling poverty?
2. Which action programmes benefited from the savings made following the closure of social groceries, soup kitchens and pharmacies?