

**Question for written answer E-003428/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Almopia spa facilities

The Almopia spa facilities (Pozar) are among the most famous of northern Greece and a favourite destination for wellness tourism. However, they are now having difficulty in renewing their National Tourism permit because of non-compliance with building regulations, environmental impact study provisions and ease of access requirements. In this mountain area, around 3000 local residents depend on the spa facilities for their livelihood, being employed by them directly or working in the tourism sector.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether additional European Structural and Investment Fund appropriations are being specifically earmarked for the requisite improvements to the spa facilities under Article 174 TFEU and the 'Europe 2020' strategy, and whether they have been received and deployed by Greece?
2. Have further measures been projected to encourage the inclusion of the 'natural heritage' in 'tourism strategies', as indicated in the Commission Communication of 30 June 2010 entitled 'Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe'?

(2010/2206(INI))

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