

Question for written answer E-004178/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Further attempts by ND Government to undermine social security provisions

Efforts to make individuals personally responsible for their welfare insurance, thereby depriving it of its social character, is currently one of the keynote policies of the ND Government, its purpose being to achieve further privatisation of social security arrangements through the introduction of funded contributory schemes with personal pension pots, relieving the State and employers of their responsibility, and pave the way for the dismantling of supplementary pension schemes.

The ND Government is seeking to build on the legislation adopted by previous administrations, especially the Katrougkalos Law, with a view to ending existing social welfare provisions. This is confirmed by the Commission's 'fourth enhanced surveillance report', which indicates that 'the authorities have decided to confirm legislation passed by the previous government'

The Commission report regards as a 'cost' any reimbursements to pensioners following the havoc wreaked on their pension entitlements, for which numerous conditions must be met, while welcoming the fact that the CoS has decided to keep intact the basic principles of the Katrougkalos Law, retirement age remaining unchanged, for example.

What view does the Commission take of the fact that, under the 'new social insurance scheme', which fits into the EU's overall three-pillar and PEPP strategy:

1. social security is being transformed into a commodity;
2. the State and employers are being relieved of their obligations;
3. workers are being called upon to stake what little they have on an uncertain prospect of future returns?