

Question for written answer E-004374/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Social welfare services

In Cyprus, social welfare services are experiencing serious problems relating to understaffing and the lack of integrated structures for the effective provision of protection and support. The problems are worsening because of continued cuts to social expenditure. As a result, human tragedies come to light once it is too late and innocent lives have been lost, including those of children.

Despite the fact that back in 2017 the former Commissioner for Children's Rights stressed the need for measures to be taken to improve social welfare services mechanisms, no substantive measures were taken. Thus, today, the spotlight has once again fallen on social welfare services, in a case concerning abuse of a 19-month-old child.

The European Pillar of Social Rights stresses the right of every individual to equal treatment and equal opportunities in relation to social protection and access to goods and services available to the public. In addition, under Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, children have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being.

Can the Commission say:

How can the Commission support Member States to carry out the necessary restructuring and to develop adequate basic social support structures, as provided for in the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU?