

**Question for written answer E-004375/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Support for social welfare services from European funds

In Cyprus, social welfare services are experiencing serious problems relating to understaffing and the lack of integrated structures for the effective provision of 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.

Since the chronic weaknesses of the social welfare services are worsening, in the midst of a pandemic, and are expected to deteriorate further as a result of the consequences of the crisis:

How is the Commission checking that the Member States are making full use of European funds in relation to the implementation of restructuring in social welfare services?