

**Question for written answer E-006634/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Serious difficulties regarding cancer prevention and the treatment and rehabilitation of cancer patients in the midst of the pandemic

Millions of cancer patients in the EU Member States currently find themselves in a particularly grim situation, while at the same time the EU is announcing the launch of a 'cancer campaign'. Such 'campaigns' and 'incentives' do not in fact cost the EU a great deal, as they are not accompanied by funding measures for development of the necessary public infrastructures.

Instead, serious diseases and the prevention thereof are being presented as a matter of 'individual responsibility'. EU Member State public health services have now been tailored exclusively to dealing with the coronavirus.

The fact that public health systems have been left so bereft is attributable to the EU and to successive Greek governments.

In the light of this

and bearing in mind the EU's own responsibility in this connection:

1. What view does the Commission take of the refusal of the Member State governments to immediately recruit permanent and full-time dedicated medical and nursing staff to meet healthcare requirements?
2. What view does it take of their refusal to authorise the direct requisitioning of private sector services, with no compensatory payments to those operating them, and take responsibility for provision of the diagnoses and treatment urgently needed by cancer and other patients at no cost to the latter?
3. What view does it take of the paltry amounts earmarked for the public health service from the billions released under the 'Recovery Fund' and the EUR 600 million cut in health expenditure in Greece, requiring patients to meet the necessary costs directly from their own pockets or indirectly through their insurance?