

Question for written answer E-001799/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: High percentage of births by caesarean section in Cyprus

Caesarean sections in Cyprus accounted for 61% of total births in 2020, while the acceptable maximum limit set by the World Health Organisation is 15% and the EU average does not exceed 30%.

It is generally accepted that medical intervention in childbirth constitutes a disruption of the normal chain of events, weakening or adversely affecting mothers and newborn children both physically and psychologically.

This has been confirmed by research findings.

It is also essential for pregnant women to be given proper information and optimal medical care.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether an EU strategy is in place to promote normal childbirth?
2. Has any action been taken to reduce the number of unjustifiable caesarean births in EU Member States, especially in counties such as Cyprus where the percentage is particularly high?
3. Are any EU records kept regarding the percentage of caesarean sections carried out by individual practitioners or hospitals?