

**Question for written answer E-000259/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Paediatric care in Greece

With young children needing care being forced to wait for hours to be examined or given a bed in a paediatric hospital or clinic, the situation in Greece is extremely precarious. Massively overworked nursing and medical staff have been driven beyond their limits in attempting to meet the needs of patients.

Not only are the measures adopted by the EU and implemented by Member States failing to remedy the enormous shortfall in resources, but they are perpetuating and aggravating the situation. The result is constant staff transfers and recruitment on part-time contracts in Greece and other Member States.

In the light of this:

1. Can the Commission say what view it takes of the fact that the precarious situation for children and newborn's in Greece and other countries regarding even 'the most basic rights such as healthcare' is attributable to EU and national government strategies under the spurious EU 'child guarantee' programme?
2. What view does it take of the fact that the commercialisation of health through private-public partnerships is resulting in the understaffing of paediatric hospitals and clinics, thereby jeopardising the lives, health and safety of children and newborns and placing a heavy financial burden on families?
3. What view does it take of calls for measures to ensure that public health care facilities are fully staffed and provided with all the necessary equipment and infrastructures, so as to ensure that comprehensive paediatric care can be provided promptly, safely, and free of charge to all children?

Submitted: 27.1.2023